

Springfield-Greene County Comprehensive Plan

Parks, Open Space, and Greenways Plan Element

Appendix A: Park System Evaluation



Vision 20/20
Springfield-Greene County
Comprehensive Plan

Parks Open Space, and Greenways Element
Appendix A:
Park System Evaluation

September 1, 1998

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1. Introduction

1. Introduction

The purpose of the parks evaluation is to assess how each park in the system functions according to its adopted classification and guidelines. This means that not only is each park evaluated, but the park classification system and guidelines themselves are assessed for appropriateness.

A Parks Master Plan was prepared in 1976. The plan evaluated the parks at that time and offered comments and recommendations for the adoption of a park classification system. Pursuant to the plan, the 1979 guidelines were adopted that included a park classification system and guidelines for the park system and each park.

This evaluation will assess the system and each park in relation to the 1979 guidelines, the recommendations made in the 1976 plan, and will propose appropriate changes to the adopted guidelines.

Also, the evaluation will examine selected characteristics of the population within the service area of mini, neighborhood, and community parks. The age cohorts from the 1990 Census of Population are shown and a general discussion about the service area follows. Knowledge about the population and neighborhood conditions is important information in providing proper parks and facilities.

Park Needs Assessment

Assessing the need for park land provides important guidance for this park plan. Park land need is assessed from several perspectives.

- The need to provide a framework for future development of the community.
- The need to connect various components of the park system and other activity nodes of the community.
- The need to protect significant natural resources.
- The need to preserve open space.

Changing demographic, economic, and social conditions must be accounted for in assessing park land needs for the future. The *qualitative* needs of the park system must be balanced with the *quantitative* measures of need. The *qualitative* aspects of the park system are the preservation of natural landscapes, connecting the community and the park system, taking advantage of resources to provide parks that may not fit the standards. *Quantitative* measures are the determinates of need based on guidelines for the provision of park land and facilities.

Park Classification System and Planning Guidelines

Planning Guidelines

Guidelines are used to create a park classification system (e.g. Regional, Citywide, Community, Neighborhood) and to establish performance criteria by which to measure park need and determine how well each park and the park system functions.

Guidelines are not rigid rules, but provide a way to measure how well the park serves the community. A guideline is an acceptable measure of delivery for parks, open space, and greenways. An acceptable measure is one that has been applied and the results demonstrate that the guideline has accomplished the planning objectives for which it was prepared. For instance, a guideline might be that the community provide 10 acres of park land for every 1000 people. Within this context, the amount of neighborhood, community, and other classifications of park land is established and measured to determine success in providing the land. The guidelines should relate to the real needs in the community for recreation land and facilities.

In order for guidelines to work they should:

- Be practicable and achievable.
- Provide for an equitable allocation of park and recreation resources throughout the community.
- Reflect the real demand of the citizens for park land.

The guidelines should be applied in the appropriate manner. Need for neighborhood or community park land can be established through observing guidelines, but open space or natural resource protection should not be equated with a numerical standard of any kind.

Park Classification System

The park classification system classifies parks, open space and greenways in accordance with their role in the park system. For instance, neighborhood parks provide land and facilities to serve identified needs as identified in the guidelines. Whereas sports complexes address the need for competitive activities, open space and greenways are provided to protect natural resources and connect various components of the community.

Existing 1979 Park Classification and Guidelines

In 1979, a *Park Classification and Guidelines* was adopted by the Park Board as a companion to the 1976 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These are the guidelines in place as the parks were improved and built through the years since 1979. The 1979 Park Classification and Guidelines are the primary tool used for park evaluation in this evaluation. These are the guidelines in place as the parks were improved and built through the years since then. The 1979 *Park Classification and Guidelines* are discussed in detail in the *Background, Analysis, and Issue Identification* section prepared for Vision 20/20 earlier in the process.

The classification and guidelines are summarized as follows:

1979 Park Classification and Guidelines

Classification	Size Range	Area (acres) for 1,000 Persons	Service Area	Population Served
1. <u>Neighborhood</u> Mini-park Neighborhood Park Elementary School (K-6) Park-School I	5-20 acres 5 acres 10-25 acres	2.5 acres	$\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile	1,500-3,000 1,500-10,000 300-630 (2) 1,500-10,000 (2)
II. <u>Community</u> (District) Community Park Junior High School (7-8) Park-School II Senior High School (9-12) Park-School III	20-50 acres 20 acres 40-70 acres 30 acres min. (1) 50-100 acres	2.5 acres	$\frac{1}{2}$ -3 miles $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 miles 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 miles $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 miles	10,000-50,000 600-1,000 (2) 20,000-30,000 1,200-2,000 (2) 20,000-50,000
III. <u>Citywide</u> Citywide Park	50-150 acres	5.0 acres	30 min. drive time	One for each 50,000
Special Areas and Facilities				
IV. <u>Regional</u> Regional Park	150 acres or more	20.0 acres	1 hour drive time	Southwest Missouri
(1) Additional one acre for each 100 pupils of maximum enrollment. (2) Capacity of pupils per school.				

Source: 1979 Springfield Park Guidelines

Park System Assessment

The park system as a whole was evaluated according to the adopted 1979 Classification System and Guidelines. By comparing the adopted guidelines with the total acreage of parks by category, an aggregate evaluation of the system was completed. The following table shows the results of the aggregate evaluation.

Park Classification	Guideline (acres/person)	Should Have (acres)	Have (acres)	Difference
Neighborhood	2.5/1000	462	168	-197
Community	2.5/1000	462	287	-175
Citywide/Regional*	5.0/1000	925	1232	+307

*Does not include City Utilities Lakes - McDaniel, Fellows and Springfield.

As the table shows, there is nearly a 200 acre deficit in both neighborhood and community parks according to the 1979 Guideline. This deficit is also evident when examining the service areas for both neighborhood and community parks. There is an excess of citywide parks according to the guidelines. The emphasis on citywide parks over the past 30 years is evident in other measures of the park system also, including quality as well as quantity.

Besides evaluating the park system as a whole, each park was also evaluated using the 1979 Classification System and Guidelines. This detailed analysis comprises the following section of this report.

Proposed Park Classification System and Guidelines

After completing the Park System Evaluation, a new classification system and guidelines are proposed for the Parks, Open and Greenways System. This new classification and guideline evolved by:

- Assessment of the parks according to the 1979 classification and guidelines
- Recently published *National Park and Recreation Association Guidelines*
- Vision 20/20 public involvement

Background

The National Recreation and Park Administration (NRPA) published planning guidelines in 1981 and 1996. The 1981 Guidelines were rather prescriptive in that they recommended specific amounts and classifications of park land and facilities in

relation to the population of the community. In this regard, they were very similar to the 1979 Springfield guidelines. The *Background Analysis* report for Vision 20/20 expands on the comparison of the national and local guidelines.

By 1997, park planning philosophy had changed. NRPA attempted to provide "the best guidance possible for all communities regardless of size that they may work within their own unique social, economic, and institutional structure to provide the park, recreation, and open space system that is best for their community and is within their economic and financial capacity". (NRPA, p.1)

This shift in philosophy is due to several reasons, some of them listed below:

- An explosion of interest among citizen groups in preserving community open lands such as wetlands, flood plains, foothills, forests, and prairies for purposes of environmental protection and "green recreation", which is passive in nature and requires little in the way of facility development.
- The expansion of service delivery responsibilities, including protecting and programming elements of the community's historical, cultural, and natural heritage.
- The growth of public-private partnerships to provide both active park and recreation facilities as well as community open lands. For example, a community flood plain greenbelt program can be justified by its enhancement of the value of adjacent private property.
- A significant growth in new state and local government environmental legislation.
- A demand from all sectors of the community for equity and uniform quality in the provision of park and recreation resources, facilities, and programs. A rational planning guideline provides a procedure for addressing these concerns.
- A shift in planning to a process which provides a wider range of opportunities for citizens to become active stakeholders in their community and more involved in the decision making process.
- A growing recognition that recreation demand is often met by a host of providers.
- A shift away from reliance on an absolute national standard, i.e. the long standing notion of 10 acres/1000 persons, to increasing community self-direction where the number of acres for park and recreation land is based on what the citizens determine is best for themselves.
- A recognition that in many communities there may be more citizen interest in open space preservation and nature-based recreation than in the more traditional menu of activities.

The purpose of the 1996 NRPA Guidelines is "to provide a model for applying a systems approach to the planning for parks, recreation, open space, and pathways.

This approach includes a level of service guideline that is needs based, facilities driven, and land measured".

The Level of Service Guideline is a ratio expressed as acres/1000 population which represents the minimum amount of ground space needed to meet real time recreation demands of the citizens of a community. The Level of Service should:

- Be practicable and achievable.
- Provide for an equitable allocation of park and recreation resources throughout a community.
- Reflect the real time demand of the citizens for park and recreation opportunities.

The Level of Service Guideline is dependent upon estimates of usage and demand on existing parks and extrapolating the demand and usage forward to be applied to new components of the park system.

Thus, the 1996 NRPA Guidelines are not a table of standards to follow, but a procedure on how each community should assess its needs and demand and create its own unique approach to the provision of parks, open space, and greenways.

1997 Park Classification and Guidelines

The 1996 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* recommends a park classification that accounts for trends in open space, conservation land, and greenways in the park system. Below is a suggested classification for Springfield-Greene County that incorporates the 1979 city guidelines, experience from Vision 20/20 public involvement, and the 1996 NRPA guidelines.

1997 Parks, Open Space, and Greenway Classification System and Guidelines

Classification	General Description	Size Range	Service Area	Population Served	Example
Natural Resource Area	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, open space, and visual aesthetic/buffering.	Variable	Not applicable	Entire Community	Carver
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment,	Natural drainageways	Not applicable	Entire Community	South Creek/ Wilsons Creek
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Between 2,500 sq.ft. and 5 acres	Adjacent residential area	Up to 1,500	Washington
Neighborhood Park	To provide informal active and passive recreation facilities for all ages within normal walking distance.	Between 3 and 10 acres	½ mile distance	1,500 to 5,000	Silver Springs
School-Park	Combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks.	Depends on function	Depends on function	Depends on function	Cowden
Community Park (Metropolitan)	Meet the community-based recreation needs as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	50-200 acres	3 miles or more	10,000 to 50,000	Ritter Springs
Community Park (Urban)	Meet the active and passive community-based recreation needs as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	10-40 acres	½ to 3 miles	Up to 20,000	Doling
Special Facilities and Resources	To provide certain special recreation facilities of value to all citizens within the community. Special consideration should be given to the preservation of the natural and cultural environment.	50-150 acres	30 min. driving time	Entire Community	Dickerson Park Zoo
Family Recreation Centers	A facility providing primarily indoor recreational opportunities for all ages.	30,000 - 60,000 s.f	30 min. driving time	50,000-75,000	Family YMCA
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	25-80 acres	30 min. driving time	50,000	Cooper
Private Park/Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable	Variable	Depends on function	

Proposed Trail Classification

1997 Trail Classification

Classification	General Description	Description of Each Type	Example
Park Trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment.	Type I: Separate/single purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists. Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard or soft-surfaced.	South Creek/Wilsons Creek Greenway (Type II)
Connector Trails	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as recreation.	Type I: Separate/single purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists located in independent r.o.w.(e.g. old rail corridor) Type II: Separate/single purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists.(Typically within road r.o.w.)	Frisco Highline Trail
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles. Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.	None
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes.	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.	Sac River Mountain Bike Trail
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multipurpose with hiking and all-terrain biking where conflicts can be managed.	

The Park Classification System is intended to provide guidance in assuring that the entire community is served with a wide range of park land and recreational opportunities as well as natural areas and greenways. The classification system and associated guidelines ensure that a systematic approach is taken throughout the community.

2. Mini Parks

Introduction

According to the *1979 Park Classification System and Guidelines*, Mini-Parks are small and primarily serve the immediate surrounding residents. Parks classified as mini-parks according to that definition are:

- Edna Norris Park
- Hawthorn Park
- Lurvey Park
- Ooley Park
- Parkwood Park
- Washington Park
- Youngs Park

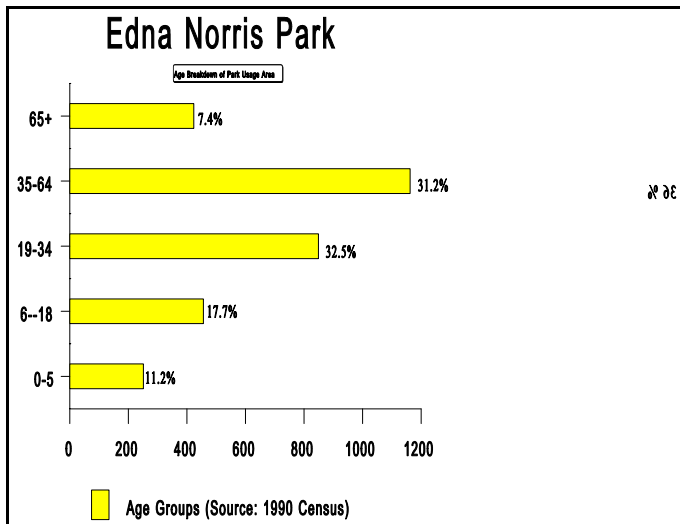
Youngs Park is currently being expanded and will serve as a neighborhood park. Ooley and Lurvey are mini-parks serving a very limited population, but are important in managing stormwater. North Parkwood is a mini-park serving a specific neighborhood which is contained within an industrial area.

The following evaluation assesses each park's character, contains a short discussion about the service area, and compares the inventory in relation to the adopted guidelines.

Edna Norris Park

Park Character

Edna Norris Park, located at 2056 S. Moore Road, is a small, 1½ acre park that was acquired in 1996 when voters approved the formation of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Until that time it had been maintained by the County. There are very few facilities at the park, which is made up mostly of open space. The facilities include 1 piece of playground equipment and a walking trail.



Service Area

The service area of Edna Norris Park includes the adjacent neighborhoods only, due to its small size and lack of facilities. There are 3,141 people residing within the service area, with a fairly balanced age distribution.

Standards

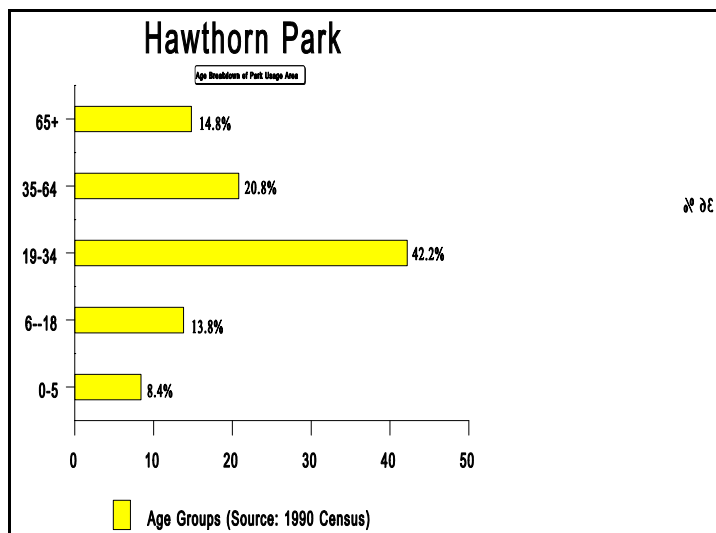
The park lacks many important facilities, such as tables, benches, grills, and additional playground equipment, especially since the number of people within the service area exceeds the recommended standard for a mini park.

Edna Norris Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	1½	Less Than 5	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	0	3	-3
Picnic Tables	0	3	-3
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Grills	0	2	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	1	6	-5
People Served	3,141	1,500-3,000	+141

Hawthorn Park

Park Character

Hawthorn park was created as part of the Grant Avenue Redevelopment Project (Urban Renewal) in 1976 and replaced the former South Grant Park. Located at Market Street and Main Avenue, the park is accessible and visible from those streets. Residential use is located to the south and west. The houses on the south are 1970's and 1980's vintage, resulting from the urban renewal project, while the houses to the west are pre-WWII vintage. There are mature shade trees and the Parks Department and neighbors have worked closely to develop additional landscaping, tree planting, and park improvements. There are overhead utilities through the park.



Service Area

Hawthorn serves a densely populated area. However, Jenny Lincoln and Fassnight Parks are located just ½ mile east and south respectively, which help serve the same area. There is a park void west of Hawthorn Park, across Grant Avenue, where there is no park and the kids must cross Grant Street to access

Hawthorn.

Standards

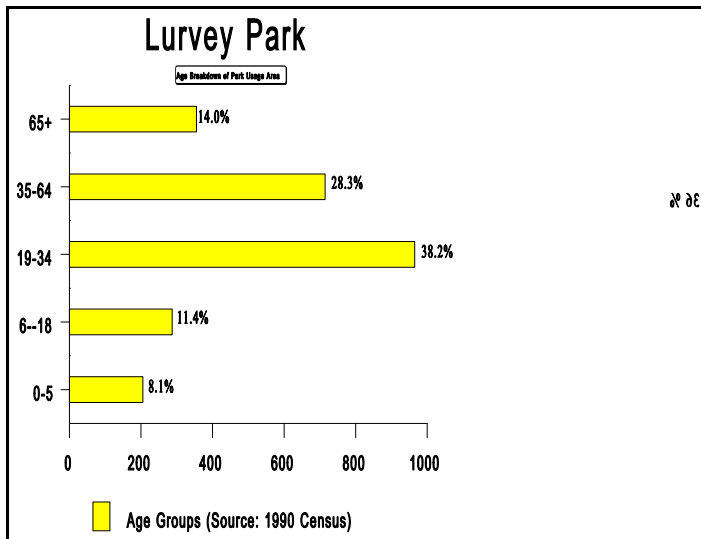
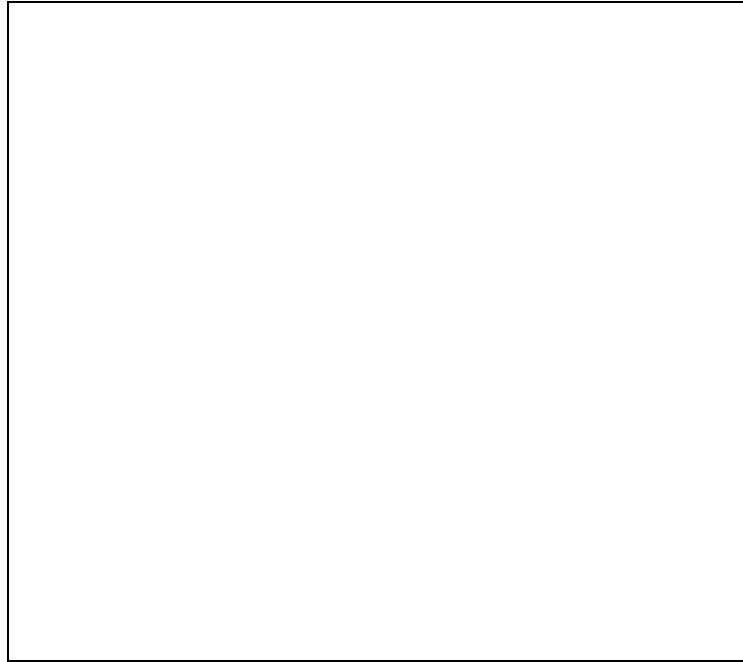
Hawthorn Park adequately serves as a mini-park. It is well equipped, and there are no deficiencies in facilities.

Hawthorn Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	3.5	Less Than 5	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Picnic Shelters	1	1	0
Benches	7	3	+4
Picnic Tables	4	3	+1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Grills	2	2	0
Security Lighting	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	6	6	0
People Served	4,817	1,500-3,000	+1,817

Lurvey Park

Park Character

Lurvey Park is located east of Oak Grove Avenue, between Catalpa and Grand Streets. It is very small with no facilities and contains a sink hole.



Service Area

Lurvey Park actually serves only the immediate neighborhood, but there are 2,557 people within a one-half mile radius. There is a large portion of the population of child bearing age, indicating the potential for additional children in the area. The area was developed primarily since the 1950's and the residents are primarily of moderate income.

Standards

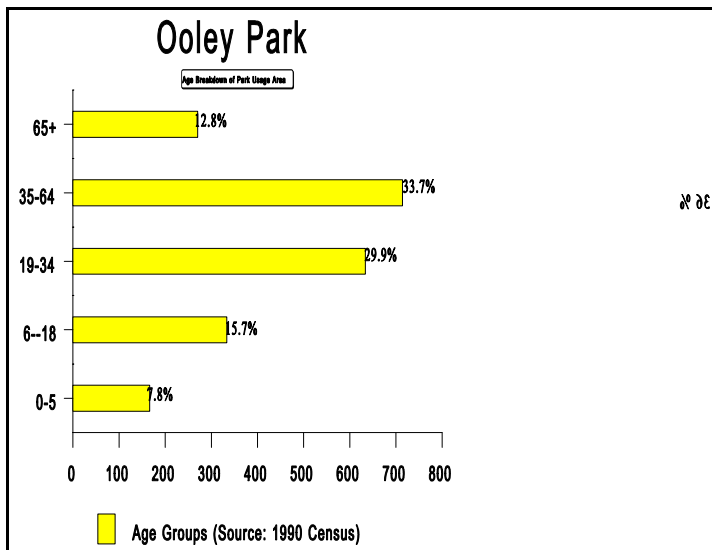
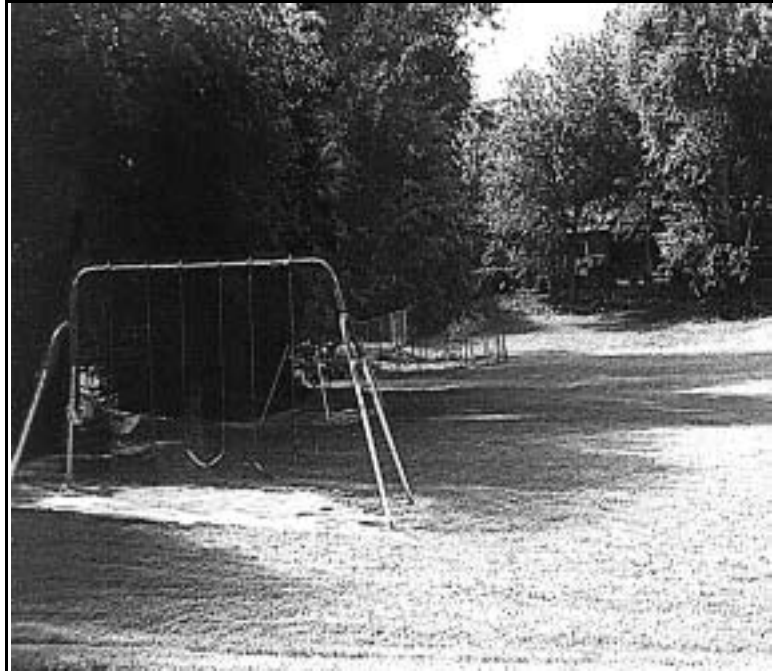
There are no facilities in Lurvey Park. It serves as a stormwater management facility.

Lurvey Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	1	Less Than 5	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	0	3	-3
Picnic Tables	0	3	-3
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Grills	0	2	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	0	6	-6
People Served	2,527	1,500-3,000	0

Ooley Park

Park Character

Ooley Park is located on East Monroe Street, just east of Oak Grove Avenue. The dominant feature is a sink hole protected by a fence. The park also includes a small playground and turf. There is no parking area but pedestrian access is good from Monroe. Surrounding land use is single-family residential.



Service area

The service area of Ooley Park is only the adjacent neighborhood due to its size, facilities and lack of parking. However, there are 2,118 people within a one half mile radius that are of mixed ages. The households within the service area are generally of moderate income and the area was developed since the 1950's.

Standards

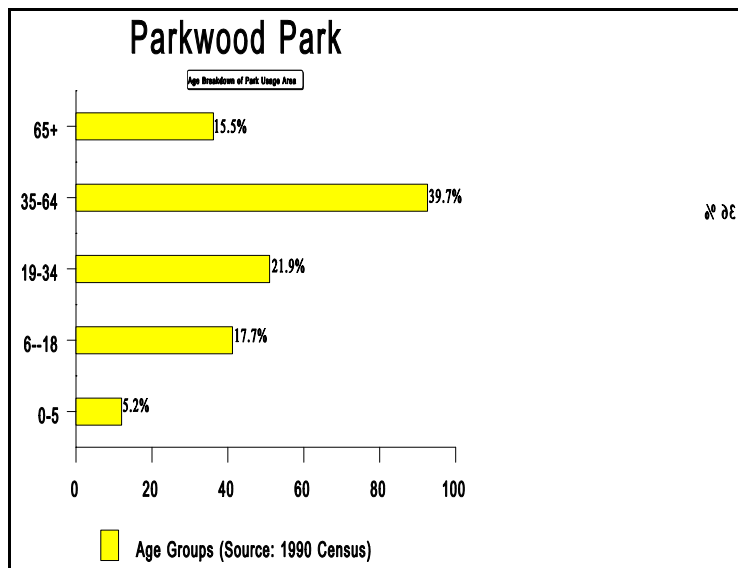
Ooley park provides only one acre of land and a small playground, creating several deficiencies, including the lack of picnicking facilities, walkways, and lighting as well as the insufficient playground.

Ooley Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	1	Less Than 5	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	0	3	-3
Picnic Tables	0	3	-3
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Grills	0	2	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	3	6	-3
People Served	2,118 (½mi.)	1,500-3,000	0

Parkwood Park

Park Character

Parkwood Park is located on North Barnes Avenue, north of Kearney Street. It is completely surrounded by the backs of residential housing with a small access point from Barnes. It is flat with no mature trees, but several newly planted ones. There is a dilapidated barn and a silo on the property, remnants of a former farm.



Service Area

The service area only includes 233 people within 1/2 mile since the neighborhood lies within an industrial area.

Standards

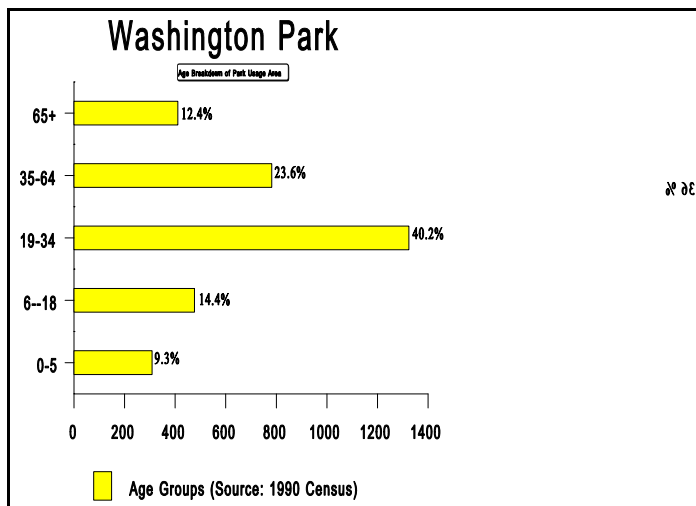
Parkwood Park is very small and serves a very small population. It was purchased by the neighborhood through the Neighborhood Improvement Program to prevent industrial development on the site as well as providing limited recreational facilities.

Parkwood Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	1.08	< 5	-4.0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	4	3	+1
Picnic Tables	7	3	+4
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Grills	3	2	0
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	3	6	-3
People Served	233 (½ mi.)	1,500-3,000	-1,267

Washington Park

Park Character

Washington Park, platted in 1869 in the Town of North Springfield along with Lafayette, were the first addressed in the 1916 park plan. It is a historic park with large trees, encompassing a city block with good access and visibility. It is a beautiful park surrounded by generally well maintained, mixed housing.



Service Area

Washington Park serves the surrounding residents very well and probably reaches out to serve people in other neighborhoods who enjoy the park. There are 3,307 people within ½ mile of the park with large numbers of people in the 19-34 age bracket and there are several people less than 18 years old.

Standards

Washington Park serves very well as a mini-park. There are larger neighborhood parks in the service area and Washington serves predominately the surrounding residents. However, its quality attracts people from other areas who enjoy its beauty.

Washington Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	3.5	Less Than 5	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Picnic Shelters	1	1	0
Benches	5	3	+2
Picnic Tables	3	3	0
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Grills	1	2	-1
Security Lighting	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	6	6	0
People Served	3,307 (½mi.)	1,500-3,000	+307

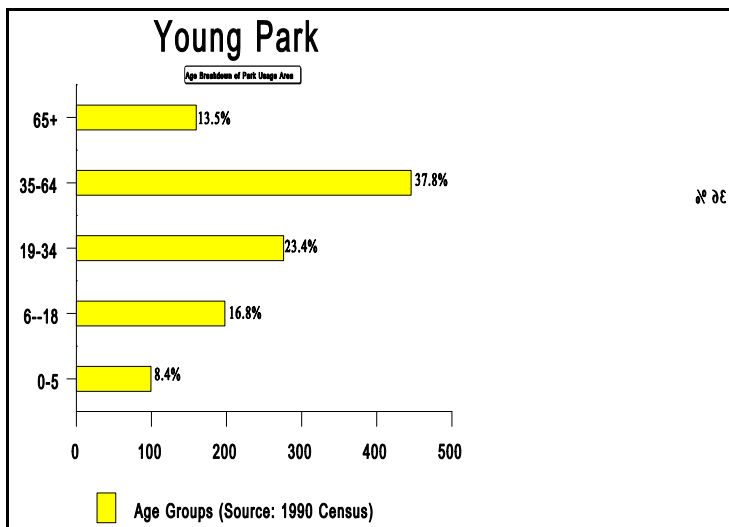
Youngs and Lily Park

Park Character

On the west side of Springfield, located at Chestnut Expressway and York Avenue, Youngs Park (established in 1969) serves a growing area. Thus, the park is planned for expansion with 9 additional acres of land recently acquired from the Lily family. This increased size will allow Youngs Park to serve as a neighborhood park. Good access is obtained from Dover Street on the south, creating good visibility. 1960's



development exists immediately south of Dover Street and new development is occurring south of that. The new development provides some private recreational opportunity, but no playground or picnicking facilities. Currently, the park's two acres are covered with mature shade trees, while the expansion land is open.



Service Area

The service area around Youngs Park is growing southward with new home construction. However, some of the area is provided with private recreational facilities. Approximately 1,179 people lived in the area in 1990, but this is rapidly increasing. The area contains a balance of ages.

Standards

Youngs and Lily Park is deficient in a picnic shelter, grills, and security lighting. The park is currently being expanded in acreage and facilities.

Youngs and Lily Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	11	Less Than 5	+6
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	2	3	-1
Picnic Tables	2	3	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Grills	0	2	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	6	6	0
People Served	1,179 (½mi.)	1,500-3,000	-321

3. Neighborhood Parks

Introduction

Neighborhood parks provide active and passive recreation facilities for all age groups within normal walking distance (½ mile) of urban neighborhood residents. Free play and supervised activities are desirable. High use capacity, accessibility, and sylvan character are important qualities. The park should set the standard for community aesthetics, including open lawns, plantings and walks.

A neighborhood park normally requires a minimum of 5 acres, and should be provided for each neighborhood area. Certain elementary school sites might be considered as providing neighborhood park services if they meet classification criteria. The neighborhood park function should be included in all community and citywide parks. Neighborhood Parks should be located close to the center of the area served and away from heavily traveled streets and other barriers. It should also be open to a public street on at least two sides to prevent intrusion into the residential settings. The neighborhood park should, if possible, adjoin an elementary school and its school building should be available for public recreation programs.

Neighborhood parks according to the 1979 Park Classification are:

- Champion Park
- Cowden Park
- Eugene Field Park
- George Washington Carver Park
- Gillenwater Park
- Glenwood Park
- Hartman Park
- Jenny Lincoln Park
- Kirkwood Park
- L. A. Wise Park
- Lafayette Park
- Living Memorial Park
- Loren Park
- Miles Park
- Overhill Park
- Sanford Park
- Silver Springs Park
- Smith Park
- Zagonyi Park

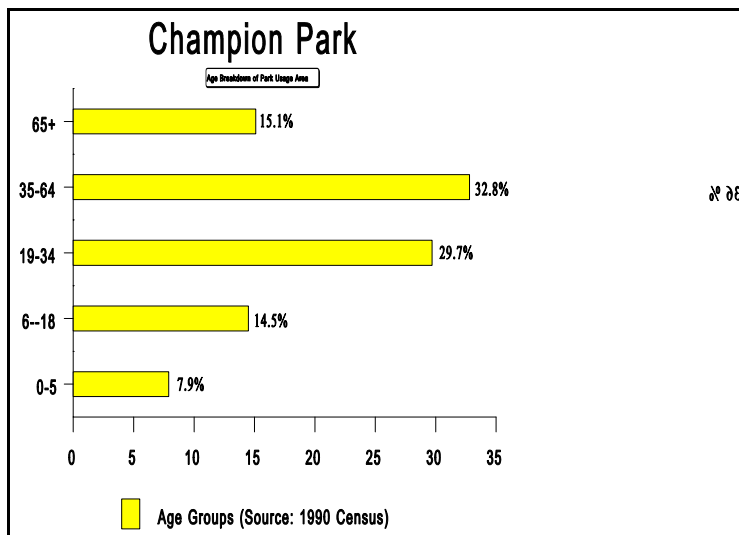
These parks all existed since 1979 except Champion, which was developed in the 1990's following acquisition by the city due to the demolition of a condemned apartment complex. Some of these parks do not meet the minimum acreage for a neighborhood park but since no other parks exist in their service area, they must serve that function. They are Lafayette, Kirkwood, and Overhill.

The following evaluation assesses each park's character, contains a short discussion about the service area, and compares the inventory in relation to the adopted guidelines.

Champion Park

Park Character

Champion Park was acquired and built during the early 1990's following the condemnation and demolition of a blighted apartment complex located at Downing and Grant. The planned facility was built in the rear of the housing, as is the case of many Springfield parks with public access and visibility only from the narrow side of the park on Grant. The site was flat, but berms were added for buffering and to make the park more interesting. It has a path system that is not connected to the access area on Grant. Champion Park is located just one block from the South Creek Greenway, currently under construction.



Service Area

There are approximately 2,931 people within a ½ mile radius. The age distribution is balanced, representing the distribution of the county. The housing was developed since the 1960's and the households are of moderate to upper income.

Standards

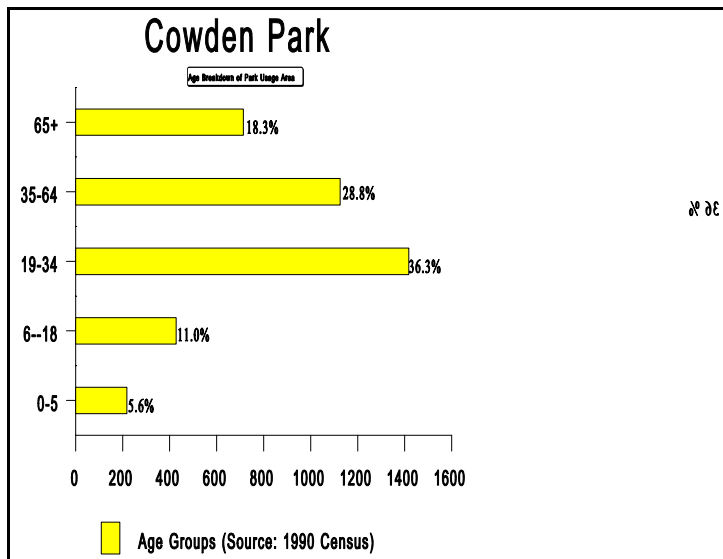
Champion park actually serves as a mini park since it lacks parking, restrooms, a picnic shelter, water fountains, basketball courts, and security lighting. The residents participating in the planning of the park did not want these facilities in the park due to fear of intrusion by the public into the neighborhood.

Champion Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	7.5	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	0	10 Vehicles	-10
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	7	10	-3
Picnic Tables	3	6-12	-6
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	Yes(1)	Yes	0
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	1	2-4	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	1	6-9	-5
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	2,565 (½mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

Cowden Park

Park Character

Cowden park is located just south of Cowden School on Battlefield Road and Kimbrough. The site is flat with mature shade trees and turf. The open space is a nice break from the commercial activity on Battlefield, but its location on the major street presents a barrier to people south of Battlefield. It has been designated a school park since the 1976 Plan, but the two facilities primarily function as separate facilities.



Service Area

Cowden serves a mixed use area. There is single-family, considerable multi-family, and commercial uses nearby.

There are approximately 3,907 people in the ½ mile service area, which is higher than most neighborhood parks. However, many of them are across Battlefield and cannot easily access the park on foot or bike.

Due to the multi-family housing, there is a very high percentage of 19-34 year old people and relatively low percentage of children. This may not change due to the type of housing and the fact that most people in Springfield move to single-family housing to raise children.

Standards

Cowden Park contains only a playground and two benches and does not meet the criteria very well for a neighborhood park.

Cowden Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	7	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	35 School Lot	10 Vehicles	+25
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	2	10	-8
Picnic Tables	0	6-12	-6
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	0	2-4	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	6	6-9	0
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	3,907 (½mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

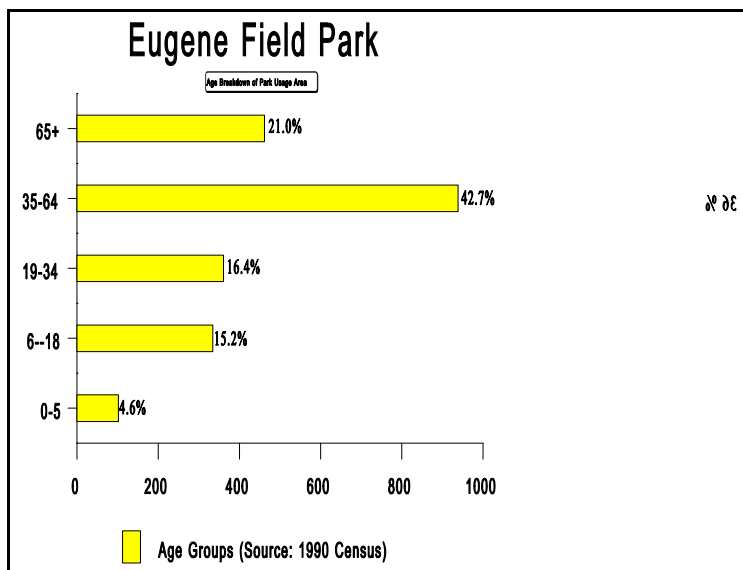
Eugene Field Park

Park Character

Eugene Field Park was acquired during the 1960's in conjunction with Eugene Field School. It is located east of the school property and is accessible through the school property from Luster, and from the south from Barataria. It is open with a concrete drainage facility running through the park. Visibility of the park is not good since it is obscured by the school



on the west and the housing on all other sides. There are no lighting, pathways, or landscaping. It is well maintained. The park playground is on the east end of the park, while the school playground is just on the west of the park, so the play facilities are not in close proximity.



Service Area

Approximately 2,197 people live within the ½ mile service radius of Field Park. There is a very large percentage of middle-age adults in this area with older children. There are not many in the child bearing age with young children.

Standards

Eugene Field Park is adjacent to Eugene Field School and provides no neighborhood park facilities except a playground.

Eugene Field Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	5	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	0	10 Vehicles	-10
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	2	10	-8
Picnic Tables	0	6-12	-6
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	0	2-4	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	7	6-9	0
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	2,197 (½mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

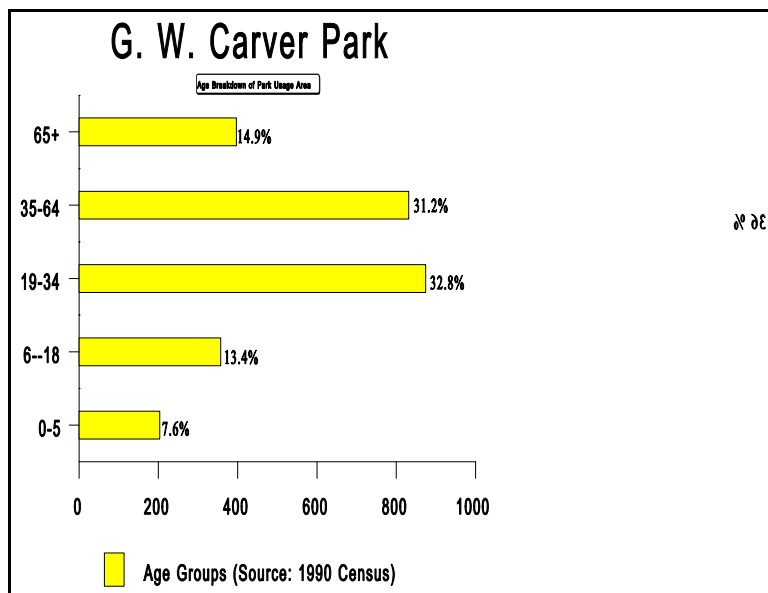
George Washington Carver Park

Park Character

George Washington Carver Park, located between Grand and Cherry in east Springfield, was acquired in the 1960's, primarily for stormwater management and protection of its sink hole fields. It is heavily wooded with small, open areas on the fringes and provides valuable open space in the urban environment. The vegetation ranges from scrub and undergrowth to mature trees. There is



marginal access from 500 South Bellview and potentially from Grand Street. The park is otherwise surrounded by single-family residences. There are no improvements on the site and requires occasional mowing on the open sections.



Service Area

George Washington Carver Park is located within ½ mile of Miles park and one mile from Oak Grove which can serve as neighborhood parks. There are 2,663 people in the service area. The ages within the area are high toward adults.

Standards

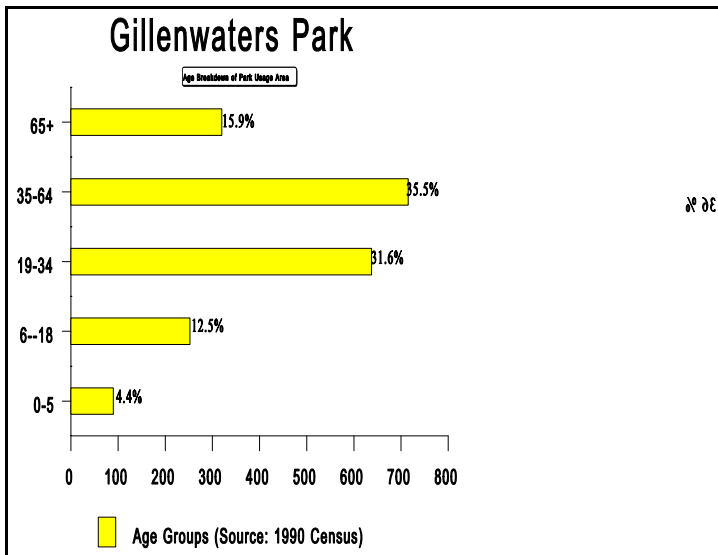
George Washington Carver park is a large tract of open space that does not serve as a neighborhood park.

George Washington Carver Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	23	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	0	10 Vehicles	-10
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	0	10	-10
Picnic Tables	0	6-12	-6
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	0	2-4	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	0	6-9	-6
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	2,663 (½mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

Gillenwaters Park

Park Character

Gillenwaters Park is in South Springfield near Kickapoo High School. The park is a sports facility and takes on that character - not that of a neighborhood park. There are relatively few trees, and no picnic shelter, while there is excessive tennis courts and parking. It was built during the early 1980s.



Service Area

Most of the housing in the Gillenwaters service area was built within the last 15-20 years and much is newer. There is some multi-family housing but it is predominately single family. There are more than 2,015 people living within the ½ mile service radius including the building since 1990.

There are a large percentage of middle-age adults and those in the child bearing years with the number of children increasing. The elderly population is also substantial.

Standards

Gillenwaters Park is primarily an outdoor tennis facility with 12 tennis courts. It does not serve the area as a neighborhood park very well in facilities or character. Other parks are over one mile away and there is no other park alternatives for residents.

Gillenwaters Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	8	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	40	10 Vehicles	+30
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	8	10	-2
Picnic Tables	6	6-12	0
Restrooms	2	1	+1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	2	2	0
Grills	3	2-4	0
Security Lighting	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	4	6-9	-2
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	2,015 (½mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

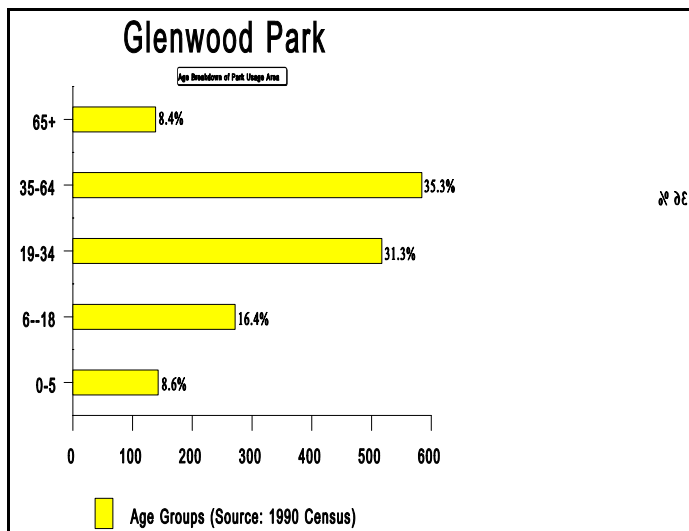
Glenwood Park

Park Character

Glenwood Park, purchased in 1962, is located at the southeast corner of Chestnut Expressway and Cedarbrook. It is adjacent to single and multi-family housing with commercial and industrial uses to the east and south. Glenwood Park only contains facilities on the south half of the park since the north park has been converted to a stormwater detention facility (adjacent to the multi-family housing).



The south half of the park has mature shade trees and turf, and a berm buffering it from Chestnut Expressway. The location on a major arterial influences the character of the park and presents a barrier to people south of Chestnut.



Service Area

Much of the area developed in the 1960's and later. To the north there is a complex of public housing with its own playground. There are 1,654 people in the ½ mile service radius with some of them south of Chestnut Expressway.

Neighborhood parks should not be located on major arterial like Chestnut since children south of the busy street cannot walk or bike

to the park. There is a mix of age groups, heavy in the adult years, but a fair amount of children (probably associated with the public housing).

Standards

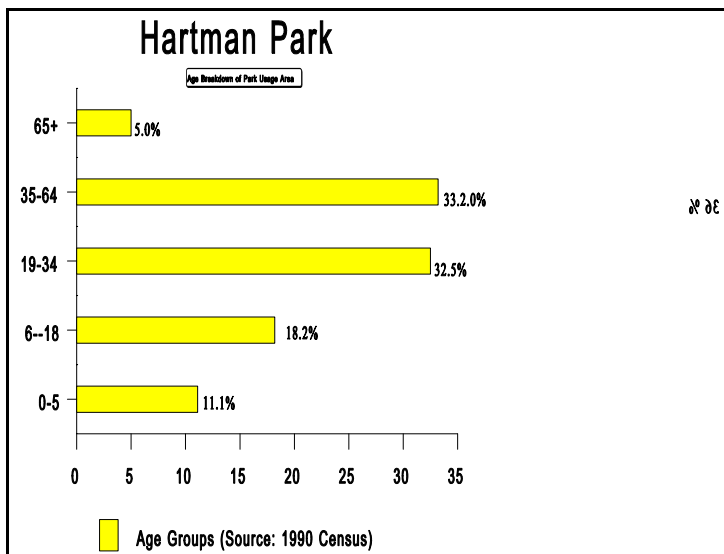
Glenwood is lacking in a picnic shelter, picnic tables, rest rooms, walkways, etc. It does have two tennis courts, not called for in a neighborhood park.

Glenwood Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	8	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	15	10 Vehicles	+5
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	5	10	-5
Picnic Tables	2	6-12	-4
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	0	2-4	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	8	6-9	0
Basketball Court	Yes	Yes	0
People Served	1,654 (½mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

Hartman Park

Park Character

Hartman Park, located in the Del Prado Hills Subdivision, was acquired in 1996 by donation from Dean Hartman. Facilities at the 4½ acre park include one piece of playground equipment and a couple of benches, well below the standards for a Neighborhood park.



Service Area

There are currently only 100 people within the service area of Hartman park, with a high percentage of children and young adults.

Standards

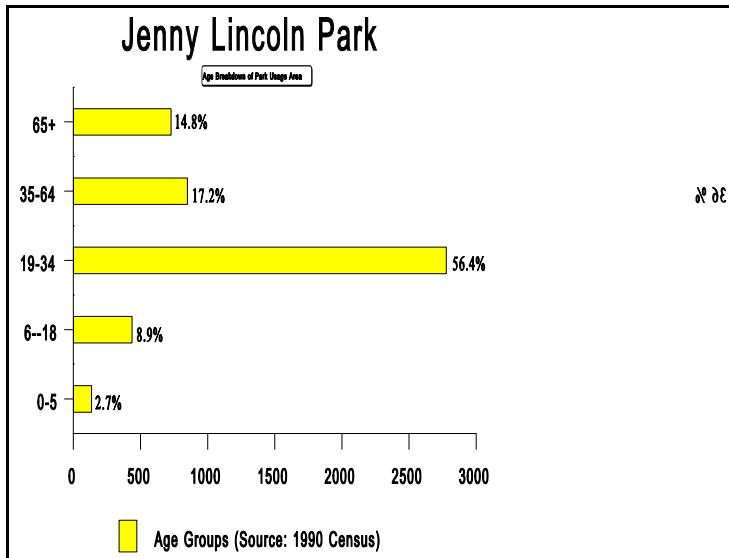
Hartman Park is severely lacking in almost every standard, including acreage and people served. It would need many improvements to meet the standards of a Neighborhood park.

Hartman Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	4.5	5-20	.5
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	0	10 Vehicles	-10
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	2	10	-8
Picnic Tables	1	6-12	-5
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	0	2-4	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	1	6-9	-5
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	100	1,500-10,000	-1,400

Jenny Lincoln Park

Park Character

Surrounded by South, Harrison, Jefferson, and Madison Streets, Jenny Lincoln Park is located in Springfield's center city and was developed through the urban renewal efforts of the 1960's and 1970's. The block is shared with two senior citizen housing projects. The site is flat with mature shade trees. The facilities are modern, reflecting 1970's design. The community center is a converted duplex, currently leased to a not-for-profit organization.



Service Area

Approximately 4,928 people live in the ½ mile service radius of Jenny Lincoln Park. The park is near SMSU and many residents are within the 19-34 age bracket. There are senior citizen housing projects near the park creating a large elderly component as well. The private housing is very mixed, ranging from

older single family to newer apartments.

Standards

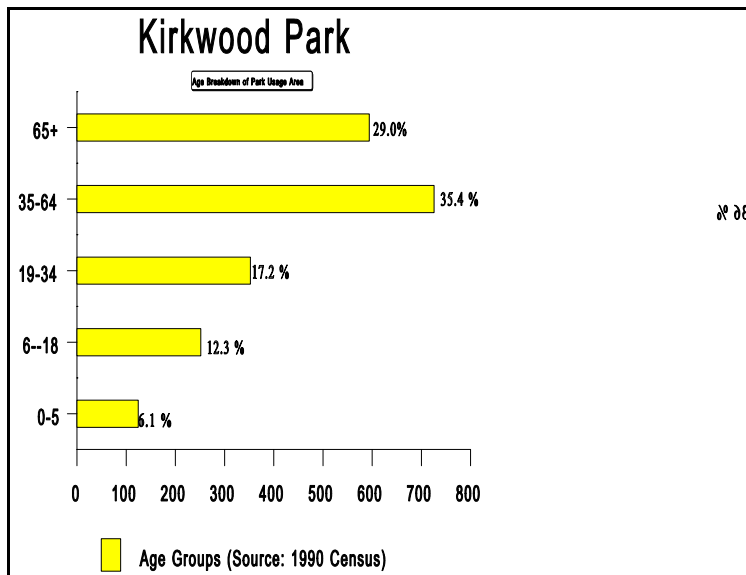
Jenny Lincoln Park meets all criteria for a neighborhood park with the exception of basketball courts. In addition to its neighborhood function Lincoln Park has a small community center which was recently leased to a community service organization.

Jenny Lincoln Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	11	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	100	10 Vehicles	+90
Picnic Shelters	1	1	0
Benches	35	10	+25
Picnic Tables	28	6-12	+14
Restrooms	2	1	+1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	1	2	-1
Grills	5	2-4	+1
Security Lighting	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	8	6-9	0
Basketball Court	0	Yes	-1
People Served	4,928	1,500-10,000	

Kirkwood Park

Park Character

Kirkwood Park was acquired in 1957, primarily to serve as a stormwater management facility. It is located at Glendale and Seminole and is surrounded on three sides by streets with residential use on the east. The park contains a fenced sink hole. It has good visibility and access. A new sidewalk was recently constructed along Seminole, improving the pedestrian access. The fencing and play equipment are in fair condition and there are no walkways within the park.



Service Area

There are 2,049 people within a neighborhood park service area with a high percentage of elderly persons and higher income households.

Standards

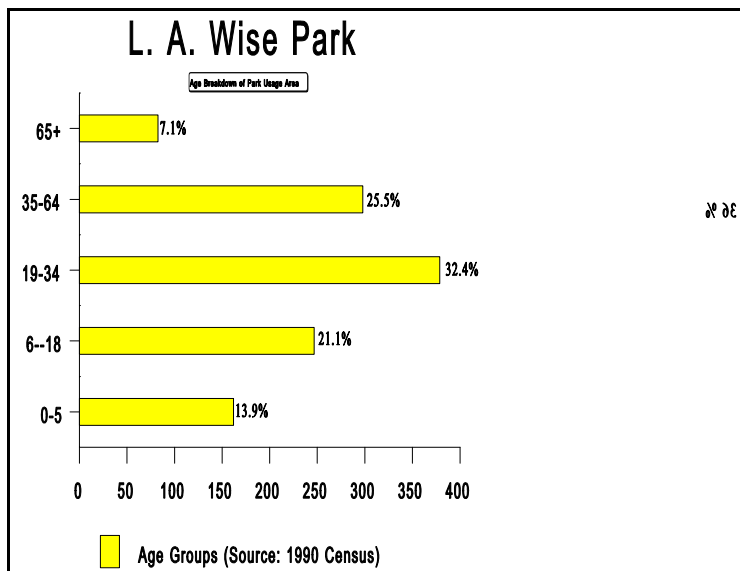
Kirkwood Park does not meet the land requirement for a neighborhood park. It lacks sufficient useable land, parking, restrooms, hard surfaced play areas, and water fountains.

Kirkwood Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	3.5	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	0	10 Vehicles	-10
Picnic Shelters	1	1	0
Benches	2	10	-8
Picnic Tables	2	6-12	-4
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	0	2	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	1
Playgrounds	8	6-9	0
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	2,049	1,500-10,000	0

L.A. Wise Park

Park Character

L.A. Wise Park is located at 3100 West Nichols Street adjacent, on the south, to Bissett School. The surrounding land use is residential with industrial use to the north. The park was acquired in 1973. It is flat and contains mature shade trees and turf with no direct vehicular access. It does not contain many facilities needed for a neighborhood park. Visibility is good from Nichols Street.



Service Area

The Wise Park service area contains only 1,168 people. The age distribution is fairly balanced with a significant percentage of youth. Habitat for Humanity and the Westside Community Betterment Association (along with private developers) have been building housing for families in the vicinity of Wise Park over the

past few years, increasing the need for neighborhood park facilities. The area is generally of low income.

Standards

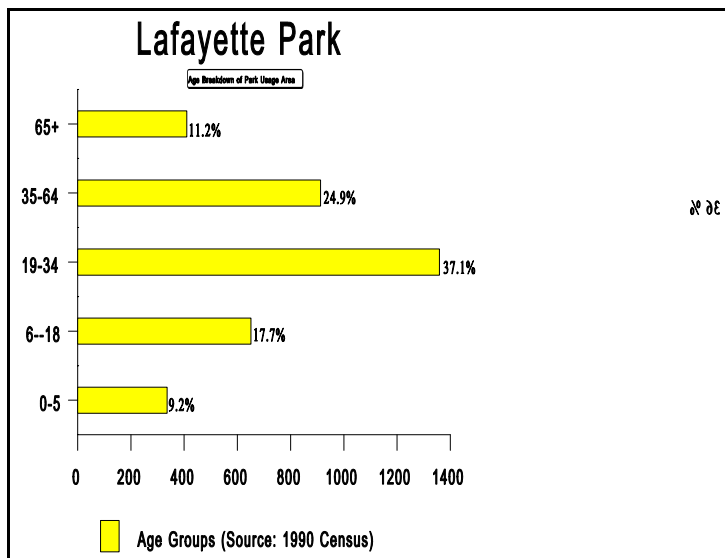
Located just south of Bissett School, Wise Park should be a school-park. As a neighborhood park, it is deficient in almost every category. Wise park provides as an extension of the Bissett School playground and has few amenities of a neighborhood park.

L. A. Wise Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	5.5	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	0	10 Vehicles	-10
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	2	10	-8
Picnic Tables	0	6-12	-6
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	0	2-4	-2
Security Lighting	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	5	6-9	-1
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	1,168 (½mi.)	1,500,10,000	-332

Lafayette Park

Park Character

Lafayette Park, along with Washington Park, was dedicated as a park in 1869 with the platting of North Springfield. It was included in the 1916 park plan. The park is beautifully adorned with large trees and maintained very well, but some of the improvements over the decades have not incorporated the historic nature into the design, e.g., picnic shelter and lighting. It takes up a city block and has very good access, surrounded by single-family housing generally in deteriorating condition.



Service Area

Lafayette Park serves an area of 3,669 people. Being located so close to the railroad tracks, it does not effectively serve people to the south. The age distribution within ½ mile is heavy on the child bearing group and children, accentuating the need for additional park land in this neighborhood.

Standards

Although only 2.2 acres in size, Lafayette Park serves as a neighborhood park due to the lack of neighborhood parks in the area. It is lacking land, restrooms, and hard surfaced play areas.

Lafayette Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	2.2	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	0	10 Vehicles	-10
Picnic Shelters	1	1	0
Benches	5	10	-5
Picnic Tables	4	6-12	-2
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	2	2	0
Security Lighting	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	7	6-9	+1
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	3,669	1,500-10,000	+660

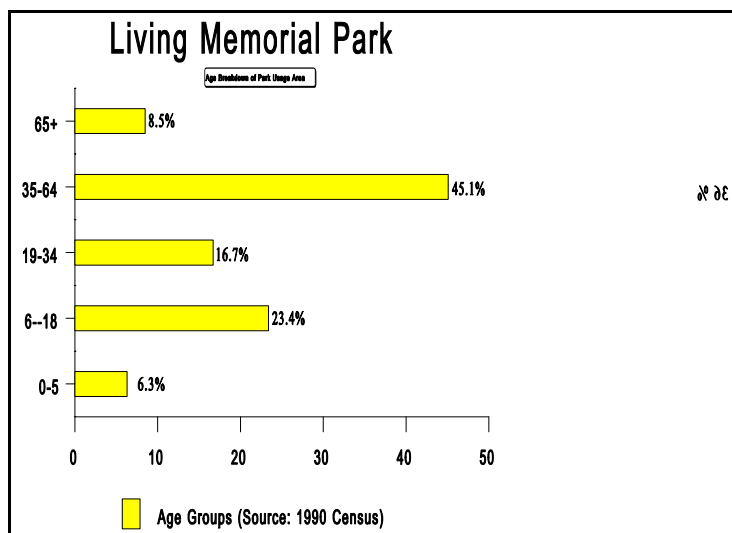
Living Memorial Park

Park Character

Living Memorial Park was dedicated to Greene County as a memorial to area war veterans in 1958. It is located on the south outer road along Highway 60, just east of the Highway 65 intersection. It is bordered by a mobile home park on the east, commercial use on the north, and wooded land on the south. The



Springfield Conservation Nature Center is just southeast of the park, along the outer road. Living Memorial Park is open with mature shade trees and landscaping. A drainage swale bisects the property. A small outdoor theater is located at the edge of the swale, taking advantage of the topography for seating. The restrooms are pit toilets. Picnicking facilities and parking are also available. There have been security problems in the past, but the Parks Department has been working with the neighbors to remedy the problems.



Service Area

Approximately 488 people reside within the one-half mile radius of the park, mostly within the adjacent mobile home park. The age distribution indicates a population with more older children and working age people.

Standards

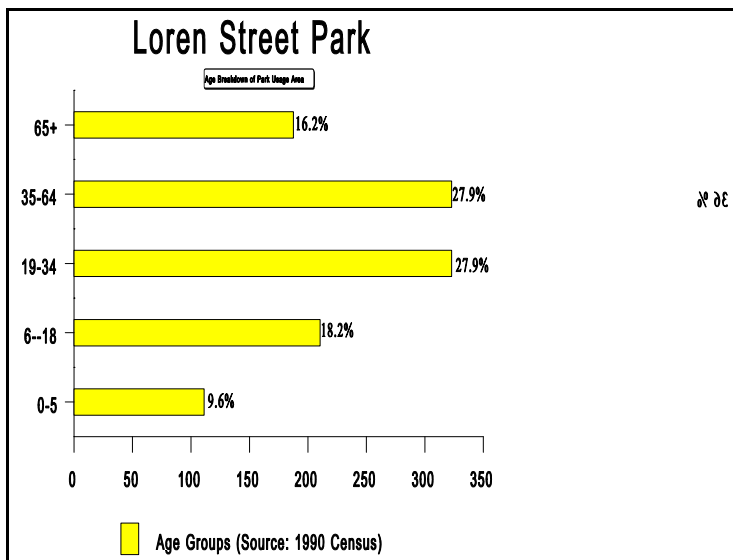
The park contains an amphi-theater and a large amount of parking, presumably to accommodate the theater. It is not on the city sewer system and has only pit toilets for restrooms. It is also deficient in several other areas.

Living Memorial Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	9.8	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	75	10 Vehicles	+65
Picnic Shelters	6	1	+5
Benches	0	10	-10
Picnic Tables	6	6-12	0
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	1	2	-1
Grills	6	2-4	-4
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	0	6-9	-6
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	488	1,500-10,000	-1012

Loren Park

Park Character

Loren Park is located just west of Kansas Expressway on Catalpa Street and was a dump site from the 1930's until the 1950's. The site is open and undeveloped except for a model airplane facility which was developed in the late 1970's. It is also adjacent to Jordan Creek in a predominately undeveloped industrial area.



Service Area

There are only 1,150 people within one half mile from the park and the age distribution is balanced. The households are of lower income and much of the housing was developed since the 1940's, prior to becoming part of the city.

Standards

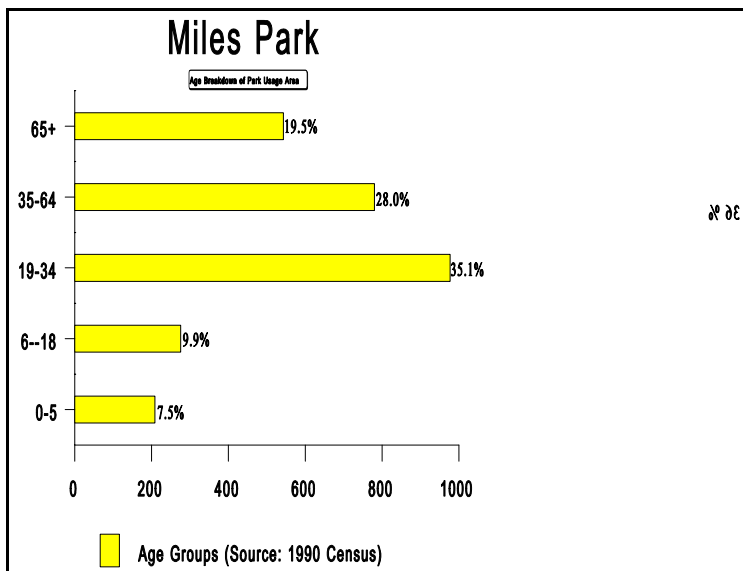
Loren Park contains adequate acreage, open space, turf, and a water fountain toward meeting the standards for a neighborhood park. However, it is deficient in playgrounds, picnicking, walkways, and lighting.

Loren Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	6.5	Less Than 5	+1.5
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	0	10 Vehicles	-10
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	0	10	-10
Picnic Tables	0	6-12	-6
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	1	2	-1
Grills	0	2	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	0	6-9	-6
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	1,155	1,500-10,000	-345

Miles Park

Park Character

Miles Park, located at 2000 East Cherry, adjacent to Bingham School, was acquired in 1966 through a donation. It contains mature shade trees and is well maintained. It also serves as a minor drainageway and has a concrete structure for that purpose. The playground is separated from the school playground. There are no walking paths in the park, but there is a track on the school side. The park is open and easily accessible to Cherry Street with shared parking. Bingham School is located to the east and the residential neighborhood bounds the south and west sides.



Service Area

The area around Miles Park developed primarily since the 1950's and the households are of moderate income. Approximately 2,784 people live within the ½ mile service radius. The age distribution is heavy in the child bearing adults and middle-age adults with a somewhat low percentage of children.

Standards

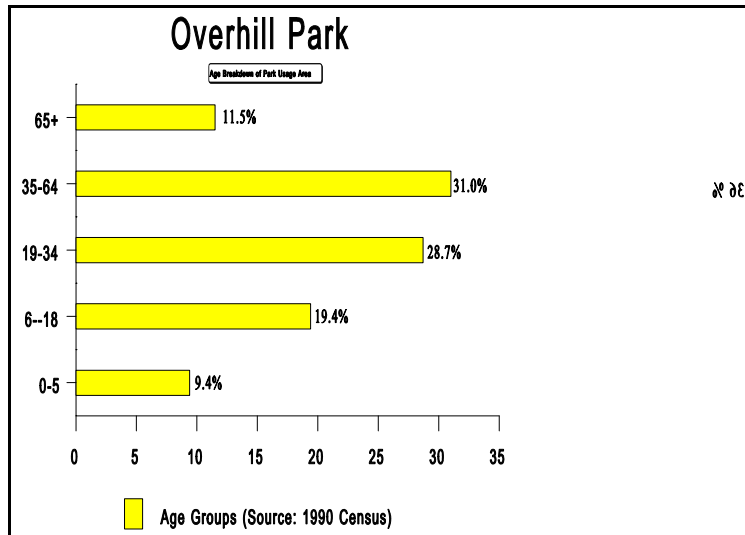
Miles Park, combined with the school facilities serve the neighborhood well as a neighborhood park but is deficient in some facilities.

Miles Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	7	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	44 School Lot	10 Vehicles	+4
Picnic Shelters	1	1	0
Benches	3	10	-7
Picnic Tables	6	6-12	0
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	4	2-4	0
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	7	6-9	0
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	2,784 (½mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

Overhill Park

Park Character

Overhill Park, dedicated in 1978 as a Greene County park, is on Overhill Avenue, just south of Grand Street. It is on the west side of town in a very dilapidated section of the community. Housing conditions are substandard and the area is unkept. Security and maintenance have been a problem, compounded by the fact that the County did not have a parks department until the recent formation of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board in 1996. Overhill is located along the Jordan Creek.



Service Area

There are only 919 people in the Overhill one-half mile neighborhood park service area. The age distribution indicates a relatively young population in this area. The housing is deteriorated and the households are predominately of low income.

Standards

The park is in bad condition and needs a complete renovation. It has excessive parking, an inadequate playground, and a basketball court, but the park does not serve as a neighborhood park.

Overhill Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	.75	5-20	-4.25
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	50	10 Vehicles	+40
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	0	10	-10
Picnic Tables	0	6-12	-6
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	0	2	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	3	6-9	-3
Basketball Court	Yes	Yes	0
People Served	919	1,500-10,000	-581

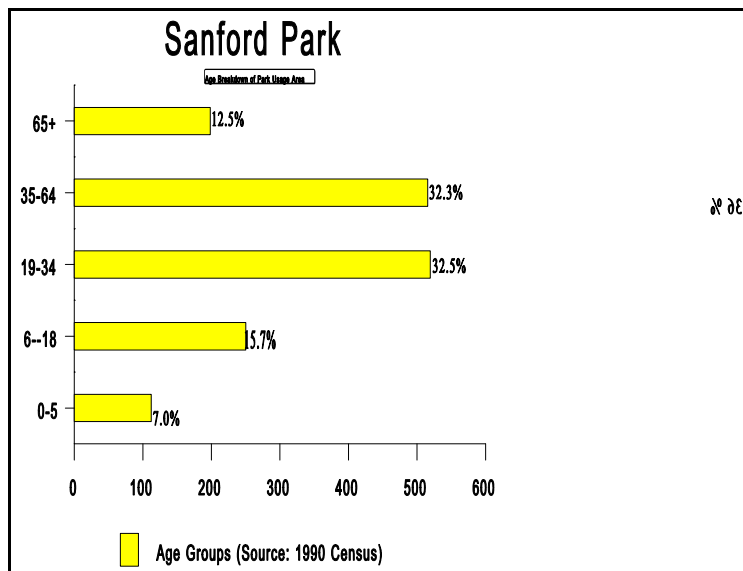
Sanford Park

Park Character

Sanford Park, acquired during the 1960's, is located just southeast of Battlefield and Franklin.

It is surrounded on three sides by housing that backs up to the park with Battlefield Road on the north, with a small access point from Battlefield. The park is rolling with karst topography and is integral to the drainage system from Erie to the Ferguson sink hole

fields. The area is subject to flooding and Sanford Park provides some pervious surface helping to decrease flood potential. It is very open with some mature shade trees and a major power line traversing the middle of the site. There is no designated public access or parking. The only facilities is a small playground. With the setting of the park, behind people's houses, there is some resistance to creating a full service neighborhood park, but the park staff is working on this issue currently.



Service Area

Approximately 1,596 people reside within the ½ mile service radius of Sanford Park. Some of them are located across Battlefield Road, virtually inaccessible by walking or biking. The rest of the area is predominately single-family housing built during and since the 1960's. The age distribution is fairly balanced.

Standards

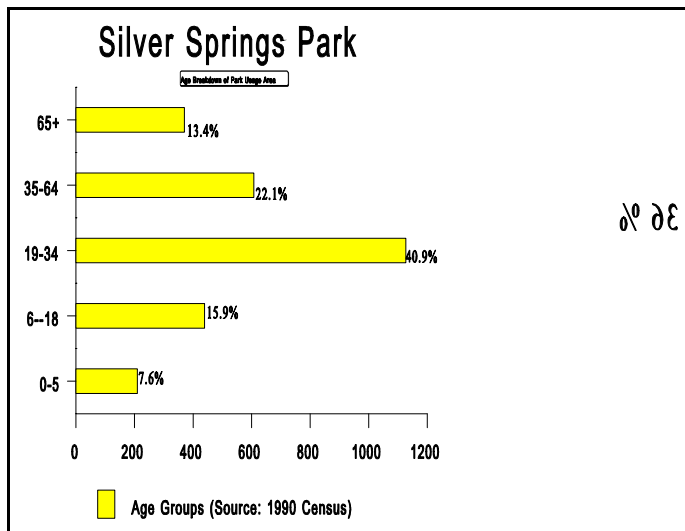
Sanford Park provides open space and a playground and meets no other criteria for a neighborhood park.

Sanford Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	8.7	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	0	10 Vehicles	-10
Picnic Shelters	0	1	-1
Benches	2	10	-8
Picnic Tables	0	6-12	-6
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	2	-2
Grills	0	2-4	-2
Security Lighting	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	9	6-9	0
Basketball Court	No	Yes	-1
People Served	1,596 (½mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

Silver Springs Park

Park Character

Silver Springs Park is a historic park located at National Avenue, just south of Division Street. The park was created in 1918 and improved with help from the WPA. The topography is rolling with the upper Jordan Creek bisecting the park. Portions of the drainage retaining walls are made of native stone, helping to provide the historic nature of the park. The land rises sharply eastward to National where there is housing across the road. Other surrounding housing is mixed between newer and older; and single and multi-family. The area has been part of a city redevelopment project for 20 years as evidenced by significant renewal activities. The pool and other facilities are newer, and the park is well maintained. Silver Springs Park is located on the fringe of two Community Park service areas - Grant Beach and Doling Parks.



Service Area

Silver Springs Park is located within the older, low-income area of Springfield with mostly pre-WWII housing. It traditionally serves a large portion of the minority population. Approximately 2,753 people live within the service area of ½ mile radius. There is a mix between single family and multi-family housing with the 125 unit Apple Court

North complex just west of the park. Like Smith Park, there is a large portion of the people within the 19-34 child bearing age bracket and a moderate percentage of children.

Standards

Silver Springs Park also serves more functions than are called for in a neighborhood park. It contains a swimming pool and tennis courts. As in nearby Smith Park, the ball field has been converted to informal play and no competitive programs exist here. Because of its historic role and the swimming pool, Silver Springs Park provides some of the functions of a community park.

Silver Springs Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	13	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	54	10 Vehicles	+44
Picnic Shelters	1	1	0
Benches	16	10	+6
Picnic Tables	19	6-12	+7
Restrooms	2	1	+1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	1	2	-1
Grills	1	2-4	-1
Security Lighting	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	8	6-9	0
Basketball Court	Yes	Yes	0
People Served	2,753 (½ mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

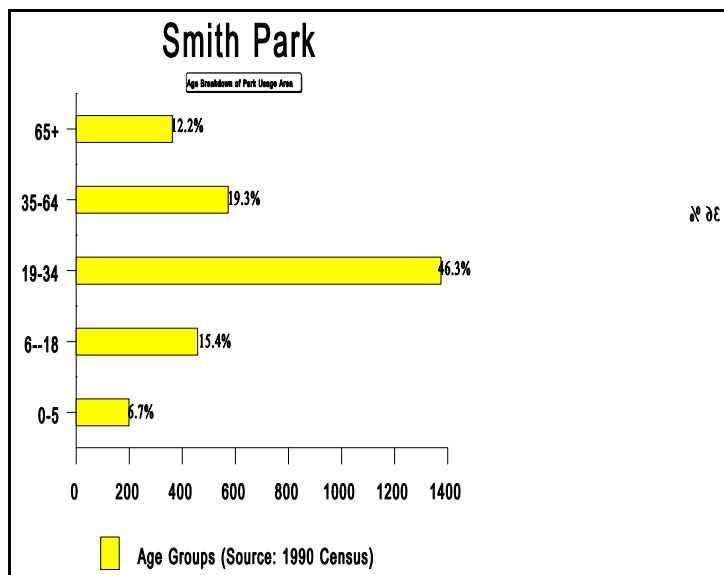
Smith Park

Park Character

Smith Park, located on Division, just three blocks east of Silver Springs Park, began its service to the community as the Springfield Golf Course but was converted into a park in 1935. It is a historic park displaying the native stone and mature shade trees associated with historic Springfield. The topography is relatively flat with a small drainageway through the park. Access and visibility are good from Division. It is surrounded



on the east and south by Evangel College and the National Guard, commercial on the west, and residential use across Division. The lighting is not in keeping with historic context of the park and the fencing, stone walls and overall facilities are beginning to show their age.



Service Area

Smith Park is very close to Silver Springs Park, and serves much of the same neighborhood. O'Reilly Gym, a special purpose sports facility is also very close. Smith Park is located in the older portion of Springfield with Pre-WWII housing and predominately low-

moderate income households. Approximately 2,966 people live within the Smith Park service area (½ mile radius). Almost one half of the residents were between 19 and 34 years of age (compared to 26 % in the city) in 1990 when the last Census of Population was taken. Young children (0-5 years) were a small portion of the area. However, with such a large portion of the people in child bearing years, this can be expected to increase.

Standards

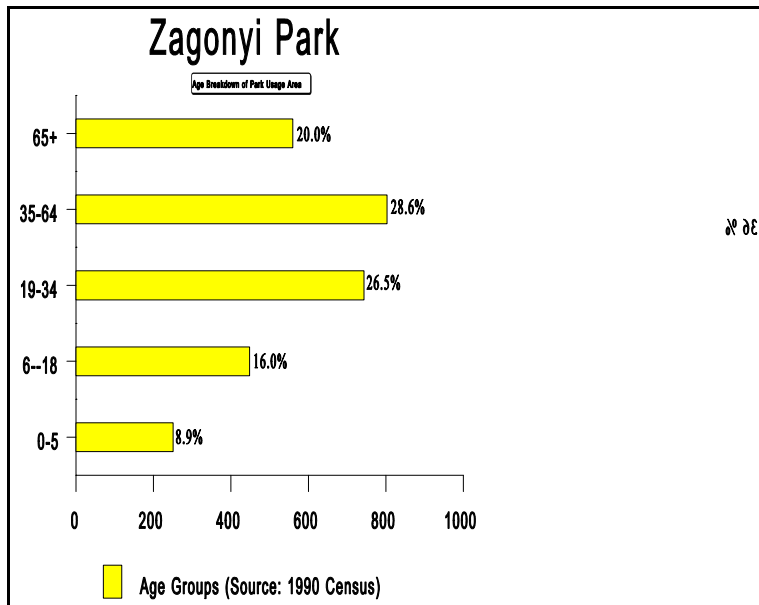
Smith Park has traditionally served a larger portion of the community than the neighborhood. The ball field has been designated for neighborhood use since the softball competitive programs are now carried out in newer sports complexes. Due to its past function, Smith Park has excessive parking and also has tennis courts. However, it serves the neighborhood well as a neighborhood park.

Smith Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	13	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	64	10 Vehicles	+54
Picnic Shelters	1	1	0
Benches	10	10	0
Picnic Tables	31	6-12	+19
Restrooms	1	1	0
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	3	2	+1
Grills	9	2-4	+5
Security Lighting	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	6	6-9	0
Basketball Court	Yes	Yes	0
People Served	2,966 (½mi)	1,500-10,000	0

Zagonyi Park

Park Character

Zagonyi Park, acquired in 1973, is a very nice neighborhood park with the Boys and Girls Club bordering on the south and a residential development in the northeast corner. It is located at Mt. Vernon Street and Park Avenue, on the west side of town. Zagonyi Park was named for Major Charles Zagonyi, who fought in the Battle of Wilson's Creek and helped lead troops through the land on which the park is located.



Service Area

Much of the west side was developed in the 1940's and later and is predominately single family in nature. The area is generally of low and moderate income with a large elderly population. Approximately 2,805 people live within the ½ mile service radius.

The age structure is balanced between children, child bearing adults, middle-age

adults, and elderly, so the park should receive use from a broad range of citizens.

Standards

Zagonyi Park represents the classic neighborhood park compared to the 1979 Guidelines. It contains 10 acres in the interior of a neighborhood, and has all of the facilities called for with the addition of two tennis courts and additional parking.

Zagonyi Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	10	5-20	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	50	10 Vehicles	+40
Picnic Shelters	1	1	0
Benches	8	10	-2
Picnic Tables	8	6-12	0
Restrooms	0	1	-1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	2	2	0
Grills	2	2-4	0
Security Lighting	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	9	6-9	0
Basketball Court	Yes	Yes	0
People Served	2,805 (½mi.)	1,500-10,000	0

4. Community Parks

Introduction

Community Parks provide an activity-dominated recreation area with a moderate amount of open space that can sustain continued heavy use. It should provide for those recreation needs that require large spaces and facilities on a year around basis for all ages. High use capacity comes from making more facilities available in one location. Playfields and community centers are an important element of the community park. Swimming pools are also recommended. Forested areas that retain natural qualities of the site should be retained and developed appropriately. The service area definition for Community Parks (according to the standards) is based on the size of the park and the population supported by that size park.

Community Parks according to the 1979 Guidelines are:

- Chesterfield Park
- Doling Park
- Fassnight Park
- Grant Beach Park
- James Ewing Park
- Meador Park
- Nichols Park
- Oak Grove Park
- Phelps Grove Park
- Ray Kelly Park
- Sequiota Park
- Watkins Park
- Westport Park

All of these parks existed in 1979 except Ewing which was on the drawing board. Watkins, Oak Grove, and Ray Kelly are recommended to become neighborhood parks under the proposed 1997 Guidelines and Classification System; while James Ewing and Meador will be classified as sports complexes.

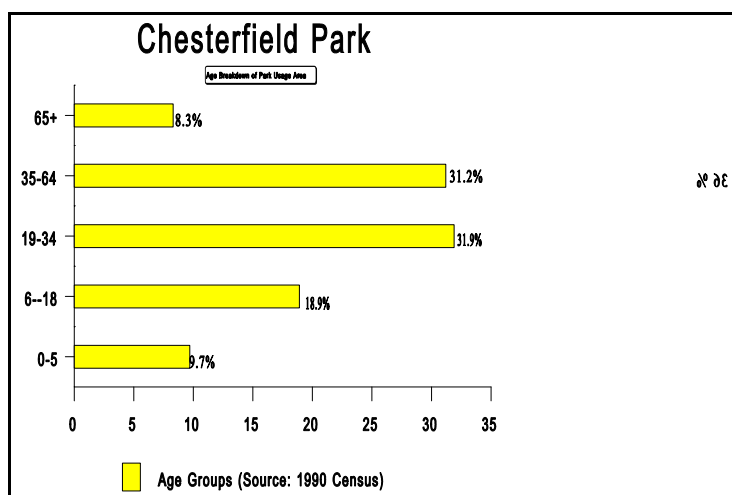
The following evaluation assesses the character of each park, contains a short discussion about the service area, and compares the inventory in relation to the adopted guidelines.

Chesterfield Park

Park Character

Chesterfield Park is located at the southeast corner of Republic Road and Scenic Avenue, bordering James River freeway on the north. It was acquired in 1995 utilizing 1/4 cent sales tax funds and a partial donation. It is currently undeveloped. The land is relatively level with some rolling relief. Access is good from Kansas Expressway, Scenic, and Republic Road. Chesterfield Village, a neo-

traditional, mixed-use development is just north, across James River Freeway and residential use is southward.



Service Area

The population of the community park service area for Chesterfield Park is estimated at 12,000, up over 50 percent since 1990, indicating the current growth trends of the area. The age distribution of the one-half mile (neighborhood) service area indicates a younger

population.

Standards

This site is currently undeveloped.

Chesterfield Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	40	20-40	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	Yes	125 Vehicles	
Picnic Shelters	0	2	-2
Benches	0	10	-10
Picnic Tables	0	15	-15
Restrooms	0	3	-3
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	0	4	0
Grills	0	10	-10
Lights	No	Yes	-1
Playgrounds	0	8	-8
Softball/Baseball Fields	0	2	-2
Basketball Courts	0	4	-4
Tennis Courts	No	Yes	-1
Community Center	No	Yes	-1
Swimming Pool	No	Yes	-1
People Served			

Doling Park

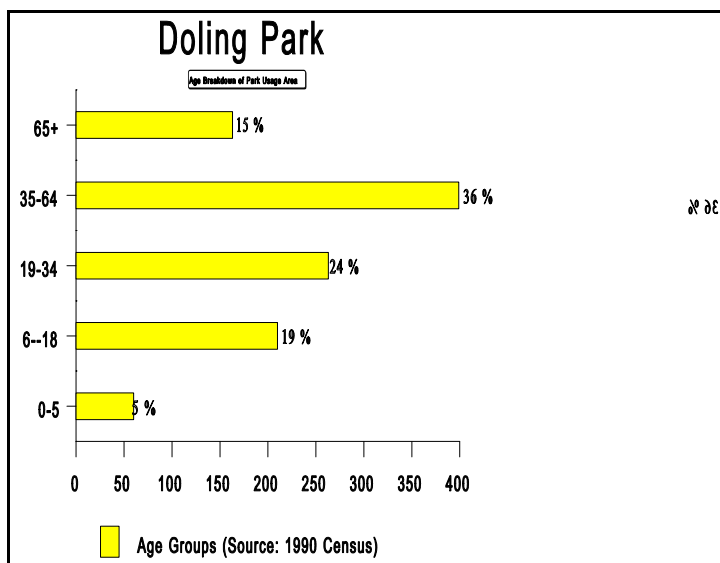
Park Character

Doling Park is an historic park, developed in the 1930's as an amusement park and skating rink. It exemplifies the design and native materials of the past which also appear in other historic parks.

Doling Park is one of Springfield's finest parks and has a long heritage of service to the community.

Doling Park is set in an area of natural caves and springs. These features exemplify some of

Springfield's unique physical features that should be preserved in parks of the future also. The park has many mature trees and is well maintained, except for the need to repair and maintain the stone walls and fences throughout the park. The Doling Community Center and Northview senior citizen center (the old roller rink) are located within the park. The pool attracts people from the surrounding community. The ball field was converted from a competition field to an informal ball field pursuant to the 1976 Park Plan. Land use to the west and south is single-family and is undeveloped to the west and north. Doling Park should be used as an example for the future development of parks in Springfield.



Service Area

Doling has approximately a 1 ½ mile radius service area and contains approximately 16,000 people. Most of the population within this service area are north of Division Street and south of I-44. It is a low-moderate income area that was developed from the turn of the century to the present with many pre-WWII houses

remaining. The service area as a neighborhood park shows age distribution in the

middle of the ranges with age 35-64 predominant.

Standards

It meets almost all of the standards of a community park and includes unique physical features. It also serves well as a neighborhood park. The Northview Senior Citizen Center structure is in poor condition.

Doling Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	40	20-40	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	200	125 Vehicles	+75
Picnic Shelters	3	2	+1
Benches	23	10	+13
Picnic Tables	25	15	+10
Restrooms	2	3	-1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	1	4	-3
Grills	16	10	+6
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	4	8	-4
Softball/Baseball Fields	1	2	-1
Basketball Courts	0	4	-4
Tennis Courts	Yes	Yes	0
Community Center	Yes	Yes	0
Swimming Pool	Yes	Yes	0
People Served			

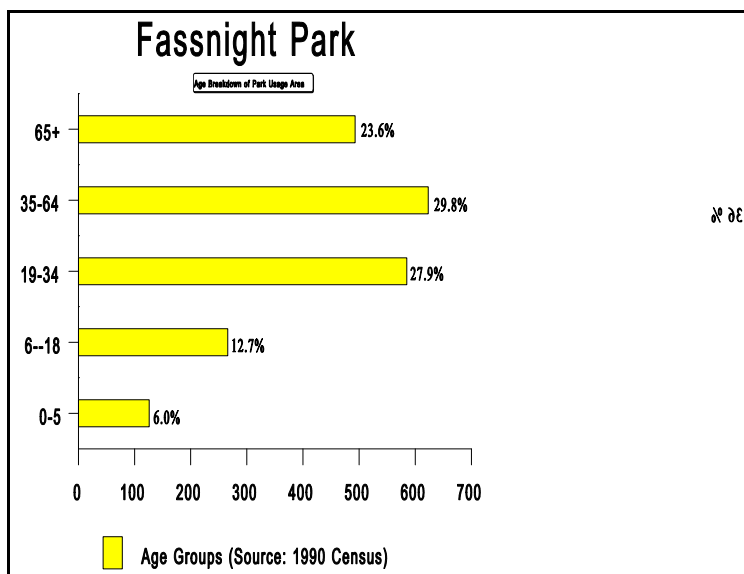
Fassnight Park

Park Character

Fassnight Park is one of Springfield's historic parks. Established in 1925, it represents the parks of the era with native stone used extensively in construction of buildings and walls. The pool pavilion is a grand facility and has been restored to excellent condition. A water slide has been added to the pool, detracting from its historic character.



There is a small ball stadium in the park in need of renovation. The shade trees are mature and many are in poor health. Fassnight Creek flows through the park. There are pathways, lighting and the park has good access and visibility from Campbell and Grant Avenues. Parkview School is to the north, separated by a road. Kennedy Stadium is to the west, while residential neighborhoods are located on the north and east boundaries of the park.



Service Area

As a community park, Fassnight serves approximately 11,000 people, according to the standards. The community park service area also overlaps Phelps Grove's area. Its neighborhood service area population is 2,094. Fassnight Park also is adjacent to Parkview High School, providing facilities for the students. The

population is distributed fairly evenly according to age groups, possibly slightly heavier on the older population.

Standards

Fassnight Park serves very well as a community and neighborhood park. Together, with Phelps Grove Park they serve as a major community park in central Springfield.

Notable deficiencies based on the standards are a community center, picnic shelters, parking, and basketball courts.

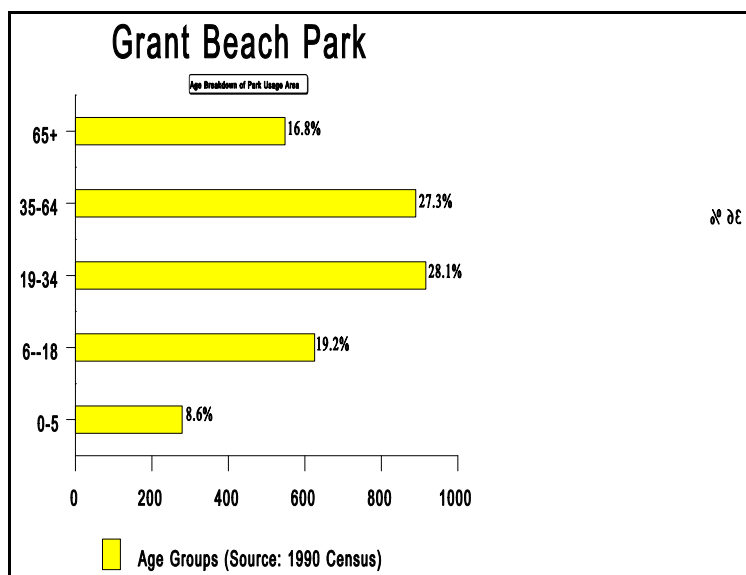
Fassnight Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	27.5	20-40	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	75 + high school lot	125 Vehicles	-50
Picnic Shelters	0	2	-2
Benches	10	10	0
Picnic Tables	15	15	0
Restrooms	3	3	0
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	2	4	-2
Grills	8	10	-2
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	7	8	-1
Softball/Baseball Fields	2	2	0
Basketball Courts	0	4	-1
Tennis Courts	Yes	Yes	0
Community Center	No	Yes	
Swimming Pool	Yes	Yes	0
People Served			

Grant Beach Park

Park Character

Grant Beach is another example of an historic park, developed in 1914 and named after an old beach. The pool was reduced in size when rebuilt in the 1970's. As in other historic parks and buildings throughout Springfield, distinctive field stone was used in the construction of several facilities and walls. Grant Beach Park went through a period of misuse by vandals and became identified as a drug

dealing location, however, with the assistance of the Parks Department and Police Department, the neighborhood reclaimed the park and it is now a safe, quality park for the community to enjoy.



Service Area

Grant Beach Park is located within the older portion of the city on the north side of town. The neighborhood is generally of low moderate income and the housing stock is predominately of the pre-WWII era. The community park service area contains approximately 8,958 people and overlaps Doling and Watkins

Parks service areas. Approximately 3,259 people live within a ½ mile radius of Grant Beach park; which is typical population density in this part of Springfield. The age distribution of the Grant Beach service area is balanced between children,

child bearing people, middle-age adults, and the elderly.

Standards

Grant Beach serves as a small community park, containing a swimming pool and tennis courts. Grant Beach Park was intended to serve a larger area, even though its size does not meet current standards

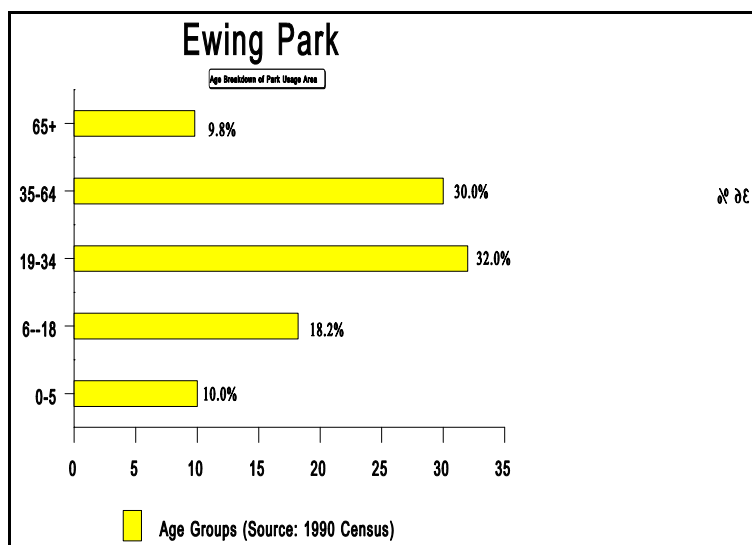
Grant Beach Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	12.5	20-40	-7.5
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	100	125 Vehicles	-25
Picnic Shelters	1	2	-1
Benches	23	10	+13
Picnic Tables	26	15	+11
Restrooms	2	3	-1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	1	4	-3
Grills	4	10	-6
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	12	8	+4
Softball/Baseball Fields	1	2	-1
Basketball Courts	Yes	4	
Tennis Courts	Yes	Yes	
Community Center	No	Yes	-1
Swimming Pool	Yes	Yes	0
People Served	3,259 (½mi.)		

James Ewing Park

Park Character

James Ewing Park, located at Scenic and Bennett, was developed in the late 1970's, primarily as a sports complex containing five softball fields.

However, it also has playground, picnicking facilities, a BMX bicycle racing track, and tennis courts. It is adjacent to Jordan Creek and Syntex chemical plant is just up-stream. The railroad track is also close to the park in this industrial area. The park is sited on a former land fill which is continually sinking, causing damage to the facilities.



Service Area

There are approximately 11,496 people within the community park service area and only 297 people in the neighborhood area of Ewing Park. The park is on the west side of Springfield in a predominately low income area. The housing was mostly developed since the

1940's when the area was not in the Springfield city limits.

Standards

James Ewing Park is primarily a sports complex with neighborhood (picnicking and playground) and community components (the BMX bicycle racing track). It has a complex of five ball fields which is excessive for a community park. Restrooms are only available through the ball field complex. In addition, it lacks basketball courts, a community center, and a swimming pool.

James Ewing Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	41	20-40	+1
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	200	125 Vehicles	+75
Picnic Shelters	3	2	+1
Benches	9	10	-1
Picnic Tables	15	15	0
Restrooms	2	3	-1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	4	4	0
Grills	2	10	-8
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	6	8	-2
Softball/Baseball Fields	5	2	+3
Basketball Courts	0	4	-4
Tennis Courts	Yes	Yes	0
Community Center	No	Yes	-1
Swimming Pool	No	Yes	-1
People Served			

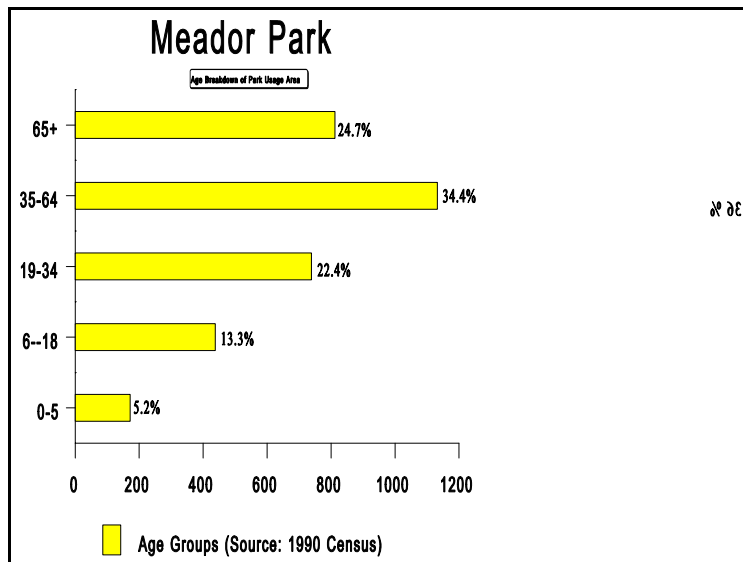
Meador Park

Park Character

Since its creation during the early 1960's, Meador Park, located at Fremont Avenue and Sunset Street, has been very heavily utilized for baseball, softball, and community park activities. It has hosted many national and state tournaments, helping Springfield become known for its enthusiasm for amateur sports. Although classified as a community park, it is primarily a sports complex which also



contains a swimming pool, picnicking facilities, tennis courts, and a playground. Meador Park lies in the shadow of the Battlefield Mall, a regional mall. In recent years portions of the park have been considered for Mall expansion.



Service Area

With most of Meador's facilities being of a city-wide nature, its service area as a community park was not calculated. As a neighborhood park it has approximately 3,293 people in the ½ mile service area with age distribution balanced.

Standards

Meador Park is primarily a sports complex. It has community park land and facilities, but they are secondary to the sports complex. Meador Park does not have a community center, but does have a prominent swimming pool facility. The pool will continue to be important since it is the only public swimming pool south of Sunshine Street.

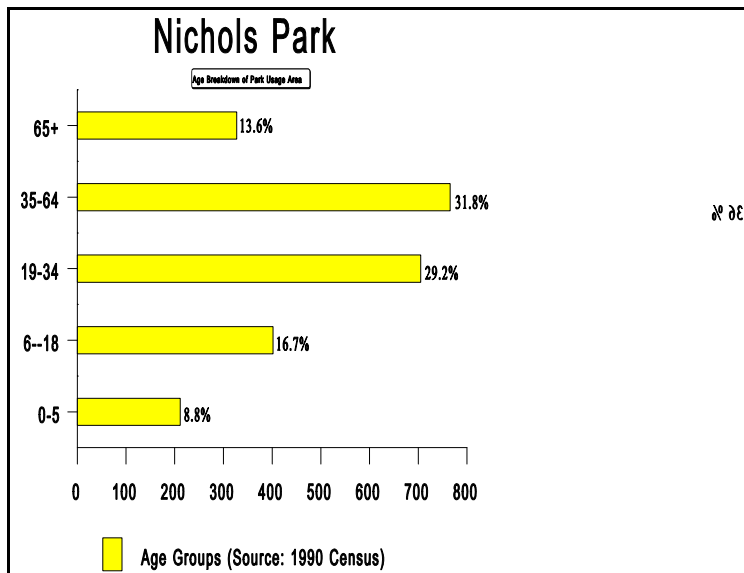
Meador Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	39	20-40	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	250	125 Vehicles	+125
Picnic Shelters	3	2	+1
Benches	7	10	-3
Picnic Tables	4	15	-11
Restrooms	4	3	+1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	2	4	-2
Grills	1	10	-9
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	9	8	+1
Softball/Baseball Fields	6	2	+4
Basketball Courts	3	4	-1
Tennis Courts	Yes	Yes	0
Community Center	No	Yes	
Swimming Pool	Yes	Yes	0
People Served			

Nichols Park

Park Character

Nichols Park is located at 1500 West Nichols Street and was developed in 1952. Nichols Park was formerly an important site for baseball and softball activities. The baseball field serves as the home field for the Central High baseball team. The topography is flat, access and visibility are good from Nichols Street, and the surrounding land use is residential.

There are mature shade trees throughout and the ball fields and a parking lot cover a large portion of the park.



Service Area

The community park service area of Nichols Park is small (due to the small size of the park) and the population served is 6,400, overlapping Westport and Watkins service areas. The neighborhood service area includes 2,411 people with an even age distribution. It is a low-moderate income area with predominately

single family housing developed since WWII.

Standards

Nichols Park does not serve as a community park. It is used primary as a facility for baseball and softball.

Nichols Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	16	20-40	-4
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	130	125 Vehicles	+5
Picnic Shelters	0	2	-2
Benches	6	10	-4
Picnic Tables	9	15	-6
Restrooms	1	3	-2
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	0	4	-4
Grills	6	10	-4
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	10	8	+2
Softball/Baseball Fields	3	2	+1
Basketball Courts	1	4	-3
Tennis Courts	Yes	Yes	0
Community Center	No	Yes	
Swimming Pool	No	Yes	
People Served			

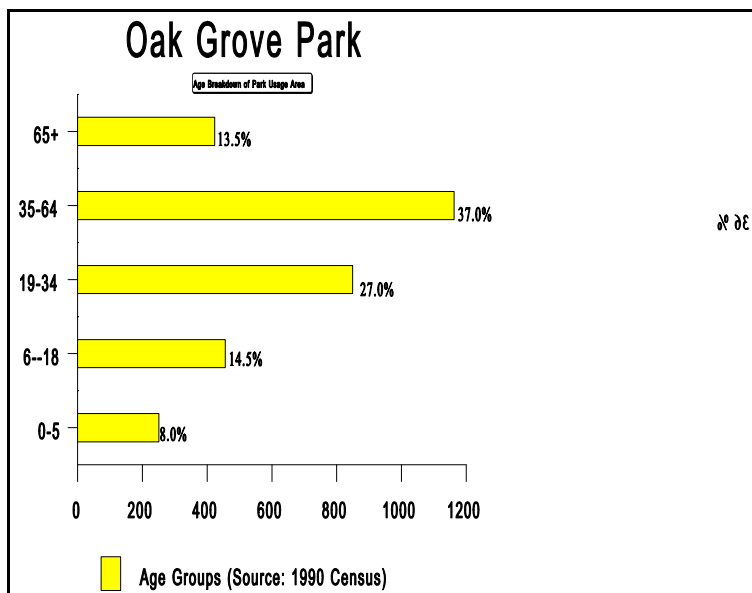
Oak Grove Park

Park Character

Oak Grove Park, developed in the late 1960s, is located at 1538 South Oak Grove Avenue. The park is bordered by single-family residential use on three sides, with Oak Grove Avenue serving as its western boundary. The enclosure of residences tends to create a feeling of intrusion, detracting from public use of the park. The park contains beautiful, mature shade trees,



penetrating the neighborhood eastward from Oak Grove Avenue. The community center and playground are located on the west side on Oak Grove Avenue. There are no walkways in the park, but it is extensively used for strolling and walking by the neighbors.



Service Area

The community park service area for Oak Grove is only 4,000 due to its small size. This is not much more than its neighborhood park service population of 3,141. The age distribution is balanced. The neighborhood income is moderate with mixed development, predominately since the 1960's.

Standards

Although Oak Grove is classified as a community park, the only community park characteristic is the community center. Otherwise, it has the size and character of a neighborhood park. It does not meet the standards for a community park.

Oak Grove Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	10	20-40	-10
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	60	125 Vehicles	65
Picnic Shelters	0	2	-2
Benches	3	10	-7
Picnic Tables	4	15	-11
Restrooms	2	3	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	2	4	-2
Grills	3	10	-7
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	9	8	+1
Softball/Baseball Fields	1	2	-1
Basketball Courts	1	4	-3
Tennis Courts	No	Yes	-1
Community Center	Yes	Yes	0
Swimming Pool	No	Yes	
People Served			

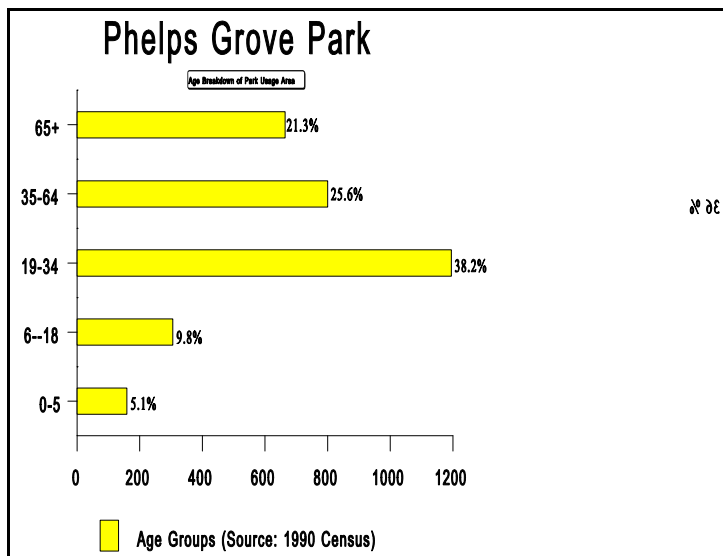
Phelps Grove Park

Park Character

Phelps Grove is also one of Springfield's historic parks, acquired in 1914. It served as the zoo prior to becoming a park and contained a lake and swimming beach. It has large mature trees, quality turf, and the signature of the historic parks; native stone building materials. Phelps Grove also contains tennis courts, the Springfield Art Museum, and a xeriscape garden.



One of the qualities of Phelps Grove Park is its design which blends into the surrounding neighborhood. It is also open to the streets and not the backs of houses, as is found in many Springfield parks. It is Springfield's favorite park according to the 1996 parks survey completed for Vision 20/20. People particularly like the setting, mature trees and turf, playground, and varied facilities. It's design, construction and maintenance is a model to apply to other existing and future parks in the system.



Service Area

Phelps Grove Park is located near the center of the community, near SMSU. It serves a moderate to upper income neighborhood as well as a much larger area. The ½ mile neighborhood service radius contains 3,124 people, one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Springfield. As expected, near the university, the age distribution largely

consists of young adults. However, there are also other age groups prevalent.

Standards

Phelps Grove Park meets most of the standards for a community park except the community center and swimming pool (there is a wading pool, but not a full sized pool). The community center and pool are important elements to meeting the standards, but without them, it is still a very popular park. Some of this can be explained by the fact that there is a pool at Fassnight Park, ½ mile west. Phelps Grove Park serves the neighborhood and community very well in all other areas.

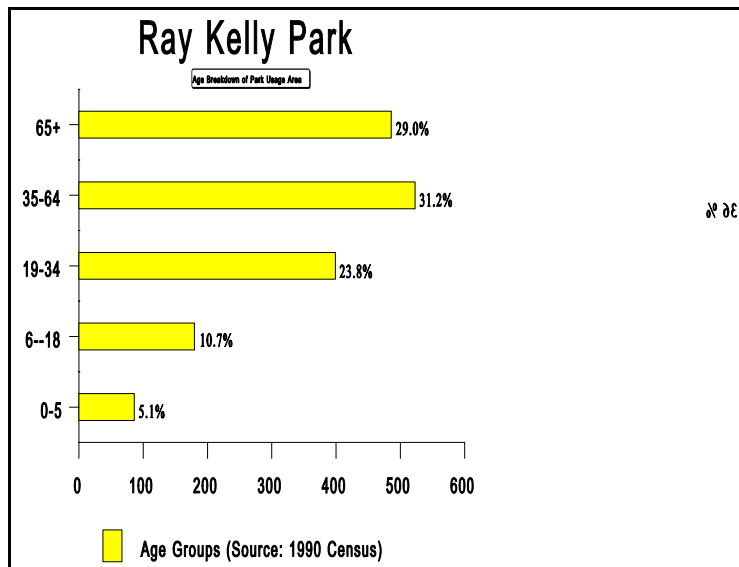
Phelps Grove Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	44	20-40	+4
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	110	125 Vehicles	-15
Picnic Shelters	1	2	-1
Benches	21	10	+11
Picnic Tables	17	15	+2
Restrooms	2	3	-1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	2	4	-2
Grills	9	10	-1
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	11	8	+3
Softball/Baseball Fields	1	2	-1
Basketball Courts	0	4	-4
Tennis Courts	Yes	Yes	0
Community Center	No	Yes	
Swimming Pool	No	Yes	
People Served			

Ray Kelly Park

Park Character

Ray Kelly Park is located at 2225 South Fremont Avenue and became a park in the late 1960's. The park is classified as a community park, but like Oak Grove, the only community park facility is the recently renovated Senior Center. It is mostly open with landscaping and berming on the east side, near the Senior Center. Access is available from Fremont and Kickapoo. There are single-family houses on the south, part of the

west and northern boundaries. The landscaping is formally planned and adds quality to the park experience. Due to the age characteristics of the immediate service area, the proximity with St. Johns Hospital, and the lack of similar facilities, Ray Kelly Park will be increasingly important to senior citizens. The informal ball fields and playground serve children in the neighborhood.



Service Area

As a community park, the service area is small due to the size of the park; only 4,000 people.

The service area also overlaps Meador Park and Phelps Grove Park service areas. The age distribution is heavy with adults.

Standards

Ray Kelly Park does not meet the standard for a community level park. A recently completed Senior Citizen Center provides services to a large area of the community.

However, the park is too small and it does not contain the facilities of a community park.

Ray Kelly Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	10	20-40	-10
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	45	125 Vehicles	-80
Picnic Shelters	0	2	-2
Benches	5	10	-5
Picnic Tables	3	15	-12
Restrooms	2	3	-1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	1	4	-3
Grills	0	10	-10
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	6	8	-2
Softball/Baseball Fields	2	2	0
Basketball Courts	0	4	-4
Tennis Courts	No	Yes	-1
Community Center	Yes	Yes	0
Swimming Pool	No	Yes	
People Served			

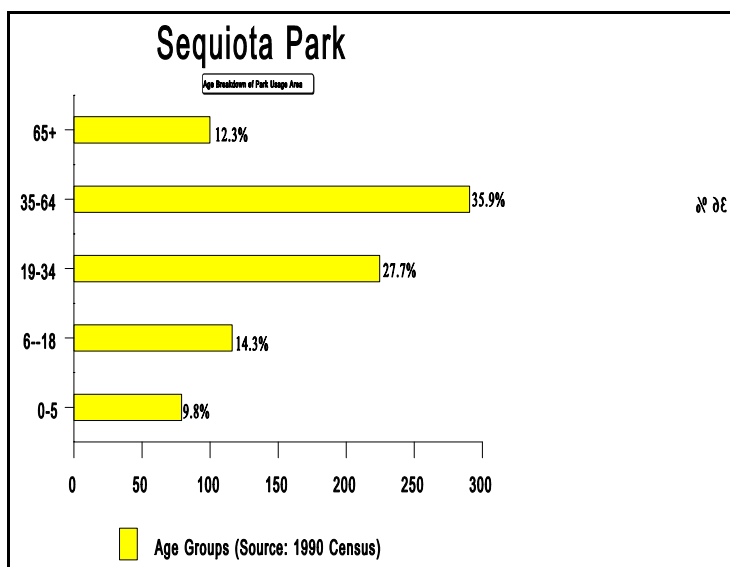
Sequiota Park

Park Character

Sequiota Park, located at 3500 Lone Pine Road, has a strong historical tradition. It's cave and spring were home to early man and later settlers, including service as a general store. The spring once housed a Department of Conservation fish hatchery. Sequiota has been an excursion destination for Springfieldians escaping the heat since the 1890's.



Sequiota contains a cave, spring, lake, mature trees and Galloway Creek within its mere 13 acres, small for a community park. Lone Pine Road borders the western edge and a high bluff on the east side provides a nice backdrop. The park is currently undergoing renovation, with primary focus on lake rehabilitation. The drainage structure and associated railing are in poor condition and a walkway system is incomplete.



Service Area

Sequiota Park is north of Galloway Village, which used to be a small town (now in Springfield's city limits) and is currently a vintage shopping area surrounded by housing on the east, a quarry on the west, and Highway 60 to the south. There is a large proportion of the population (811) within one half mile of the park over 35 years of age with

generally moderate to upper income.

Standards

Sequiota Park functions as a community park primarily in terms of its natural resources and historical perspective. It does not meet the guideline for size, parking, community center, swimming pool, court games or ball fields. It does measure up as a playground and picnic area. The people within the service area still lack most community park land and facilities.

Sequiota Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	13	20-40	-7
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	60	125 Vehicles	-65
Picnic Shelters	2	2	0
Benches	4	10	-6
Picnic Tables	16	15	+1
Restrooms	2	3	-1
Walkways	Yes	Yes	0
Water Fountains	4	4	0
Grills	2	10	-8
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	7	8	-1
Softball/Baseball Fields	0	2	-2
Basketball Courts	0	4	-4
Tennis Courts	No	Yes	-1
Community Center	No	Yes	
Swimming Pool	No	Yes	
People Served			

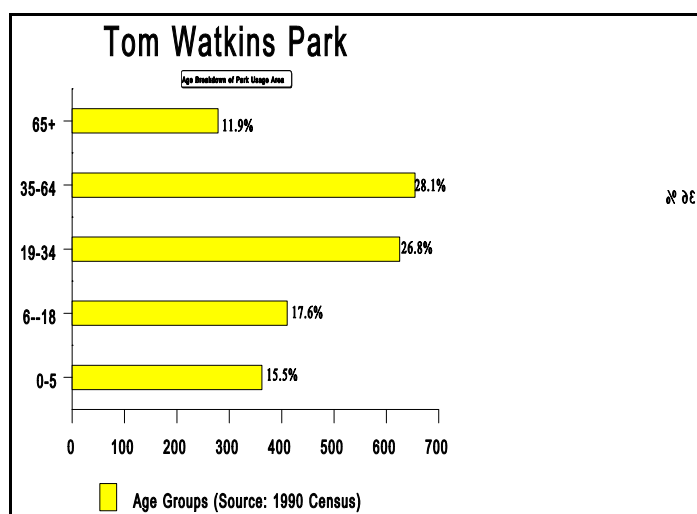
Tom Watkins Park

Park Character

Watkins Park is located at 2100 West High Street. The site is rolling to flat with a drainageway through the park on the east side. It became a park in 1959, but the surrounding housing is generally much older. There is mature shade trees throughout the park. Park Avenue borders the west edge of the park while Kearney Street is approximately 200 feet from the northern border. A residential



neighborhood surrounds the park on the south and east side with commercial and vacant use on the north. The housing backs up to the park and blocks its view from the streets. Access is good on Park Ave. and into the Community Center. There is a large subsidized housing project to the west.



Service Area

The service area contains 8,400 people and half of that overlaps the Doling Park service area. It is located in the northwest portion of the city and contains many low to moderate income households. Watkins Park's neighborhood service area contains 2,332 people. The age distribution is balanced and

serves a wide range of people.

Standards

Watkins Park does not serve as a community park. It is deficient in many categories of the standards. Watkins Park does not have a pool, its community center is boarded up and unused, and it lacks in most other areas. It's 20 acres barley qualify it as a community park but it is too large to be just a neighborhood park.

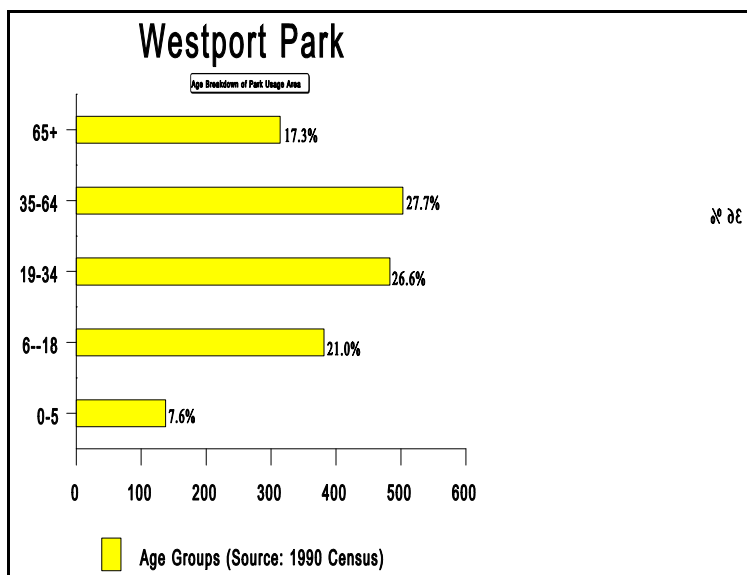
Tom Watkins Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	20	20-40	0
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	60	125 Vehicles	-65
Picnic Shelters	1	2	-1
Benches	10	10	0
Picnic Tables	8	15	-7
Restrooms	1	3	-2
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	1	4	-3
Grills	3	10	-7
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	7	8	-1
Softball/Baseball Fields	1	2	-1
Basketball Courts	4	4	0
Tennis Courts	Yes	Yes	0
Community Center	Yes	Yes	0
Swimming Pool	No	Yes	
People Served			

Westport Park

Park Character

Westport Park, acquired in 1956 is adjacent to Westport Elementary School, at 3100 Mt. Vernon. Hilton Avenue bounds the west side of the park. It is small for a community park, but being adjacent to the school and its location within the community reveal its importance in the park system. The Westside Optimists operate a youth center in the park, it contains a swimming pool, and shared use of the school facilities create a

community park, even though it is small in acreage. The park contains mature shade trees, and good access and visibility in the redeveloping neighborhood. The park playground bears no relationship with the school playground which is close to the pool. There are no walkways within the park.



Service Area

Westport serves approximately 8,800 as a community park and 1,819 as a neighborhood facility. Surrounding land use is single-family and the households are predominately low to moderate income. The age groups are distributed evenly in the Westport neighborhood service area.

Standards

Westport Park is deficient according to many criteria of the 1979 Guidelines. It is too small and does not have many of the suggested facilities. It does, however, have a pool and community center. These facilities are what make Westport a community park.

Westport Park			
Variable	Actual	Standard	Difference
Acreage	13	20-40	-7
Turf	Yes	Yes	0
Open Space	Yes	Yes	0
Parking Spaces	60	125 Vehicles	-65
Picnic Shelters	1	2	-1
Benches	5	10	-5
Picnic Tables	8	15	-7
Restrooms	2	3	-1
Walkways	No	Yes	-1
Water Fountains	0	4	-4
Grills	6	10	-4
Lights	Yes	Yes	0
Playgrounds	9	8	+1
Softball/Baseball Fields	1	2	-1
Basketball Courts	2	4	-2
Tennis Courts	Yes	Yes	0
Community Center	Yes	Yes	0
Swimming Pool	Yes	Yes	0
People Served			

5. Citywide Parks

Introduction

Citywide Parks provide certain special recreation facilities, complexes and programs of value to all citizens within the community. Special consideration should be given to the preservation of the natural environment. A park with a sense of openness and freedom allowing the city dweller to get away from the noise and congestion of the city and participate in a variety of recreation experiences.

Citywide parks as classified by the 1979 Guidelines are:

- Bill and Payne Stewart Golf Course
- Cooper Park
- Founders Park
- Horton Smith Golf Course
- Nathanael Greene Park
- River Cut Golf Course
- South Creek/Wilsons Creek Greenway

Citywide parks since 1979 are Cooper Park and River Cut Golf Course. Cooper is recommended to be classified as a sports complex under the proposed 1997 Guidelines and Classification System.

Bill and Payne Stewart Golf Course

Park Character

Formerly Grandview Golf Course, Stewart Golf Course is named after PGA Golfer, Payne Stewart and his father. It is located at the intersection of Glenstone Avenue and I-44 with commercial land use westward, I-44 across Glenstone, I-44 to the south, and residential use on the north and east. Oscar Bloom Golf Course, a par-3, lighted course is on the west part of the facility. The courses are in good condition and well maintained.



Cooper Park & Killian Sports Complex

Park Character

For this assessment, Cooper park includes the Cooper Tennis Center, soccer, and youth baseball, the Killian Softball Complex, and the Lakes Country Soccer Complex. Located at 2331 East Pythian, the Cooper / Killian Complex is an extraordinary 158 acre sports center including indoor/outdoor tennis, soccer, youth baseball, softball, walking paths, parking, and other normal appurtenances.

The Cooper / Killian Complex was very highly rated by residents in the Community Parks Survey completed for Vision 20/20. The sports complex has evolved over several years with major donations coming from Harry Cooper, a local business man. The land is rolling to flat with industrial land use to the west, the Downtown Airport to the north, semi-public sports activities to the southwest, and residences to the

south and east. The entire park was formally planned, developed and landscaped. There are small amounts of mature trees with most of the site open, landscaped and new trees planted. The park has good access and visibility from Pythian and has plenty of parking. The facilities are first rate as well as the landscaping and maintenance.



The recently renovated Killian Softball Complex includes six ball fields and was acquired for the purpose of softball following a

previously privately owned softball venture. The Lakes Country Soccer Complex



privately operates 12 soccer fields while the Parks Department has three fields. Four additional soccer fields are planned.

The Cooper Tennis Center is a community indoor/outdoor facility, requiring memberships or fees, and is also home to the Springfield Lasers, a professional tennis team.

Founders' Park

Park Character

Founders' Park will be located at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Water Street. It is located on land originally deeded to John Polk Campbell, founder of Springfield, by the Delaware Indians in 1829. The park will interpret the history of Springfield through graphics, water features, a bronze map, and an amphitheater. A committee of volunteers are developing plans and implementation strategies for several years.



Horton Smith Golf Course

Park Character

Horton Smith Golf Course, established in 1961, is located at 2409 South Scenic Avenue, just south of Seminole Street and east of Golden Avenue. Residences lie to the north and west, agricultural land southward, and

Nathanael Greene and industrial use to the east. The South Creek Greenway runs through the southern portion, near the driving range. The 18 hole course and facilities have been recently upgraded and are in good condition.



Nathanael Greene Park

Park Character

In relative infancy, Nathanael Greene Park is one of Springfield's most beautiful parks. It contains a Japanese Garden, an interpretative historic re-creation of early Springfield, picnicking, the Parks Department nursery, and lots of open space.

The land was obtained through donation as surplus from the Federal Prison System in 1976. It is one of the only passive parks in Springfield and

provides a high quality quiet, natural experience. Nathanael Greene Park actually takes on the character of two parks, the Japanese Garden and Gray-Campbell Homestead depicting 1850's lifestyle on the east side, and the shelters, picnicking, playground, paths, and landscaping on the west side. The west side of the park also provides a link with the South Creek / Wilsons Creek Greenway.



Rivercut Golf Course

Park Character

Located along the James River at Western Avenue, the Rivercut Golf Course lies on one of the most scenic sites in Greene County. The 18 hole course has a view of the bluff and is adjacent to the river. It is scheduled for opening during 1997 and will provide a first-rate golf experience. The planned Cox Road expansion will provide access from the east when it is completed, and a passive park of approximately 20 acres

is proposed at the park entrance along the new farm road 190. The location on the James River places the Rivercut Golf Course in a strategic location for the implementation of a Parkway and/or Greenway when completed.



South Creek / Wilson's Creek Greenway

Park Character

The South Creek - Wilson's Creek Greenway follows South Creek from near Meador Park to where it meets Wilson's Creek near the Southwest Sewage Plant, and continues to the Wilson's Creek Battlefield. The 10 mile greenway was the first one to begin in Greene County and provided the need for the formation of Ozark Greenways, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the creation of greenways and trails throughout the area. A



plan was developed in 1991 guiding the creation of the greenway.

The greenway's character is varied according to its proximity to the city. From Meador Park to Kansas Expressway, it is channeled and paved through much of the distance. From Kansas on, it takes more of a suburban and rural nature. When completed, the corridor will include a trail for hiking and biking as well as many environmental benefits to the community.

6. Regional Parks

Introduction

Regional parks provide outdoor recreational opportunities not otherwise available on a regional basis. Preservation of unique environmental features is a priority.

Regional parks according to the 1979 Guidelines are:

- Dickerson Park Zoo
- Fellows Lake
- Lake Springfield
- McDaniel Lake
- Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
- Ritter Springs Park

All of these facilities existed in 1979. Ritter Springs is recommended to be reclassified as a community park under the proposed 1997 Guidelines and Classification System since it is a good example of what future community parks should be.

Dickerson Park Zoo

Park Character

The oldest and most historic of Springfield's parks, Dickerson Park Zoo has risen from disrepair in the 1970's to a nationally accredited and acclaimed zoo. Springfield's zoo dates back to the pioneer era when the area was first homesteaded in 1837. Two schools were later built on the property, followed by Swinea Hall, built as a resort hotel in 1875. A large private zoo opened in 1890, but lasted only four years.



In 1922, the nearly 70-acre estate was sold to Springfield Park Board, which built up a city zoo at Dickerson Park in the 1920's and 30's. Little more was done until the mid-1970's. Since then, however, remodeling, rebuilding, and expansion have been underway, guided by a 1984 master plan, which has been recently updated. The zoo has been converting the animal environment from cramped concrete and steel cages to lush, open areas that simulate the animal's natural habitats and improves the experience of the more than 200,000 people annually visiting the zoo. The updated master plan delineates areas as Africa, Asia, Australia, South American, and Missouri. Also planned is an enhanced entry plaza, reptile facility and train ride.

The Ozark Empire Fairgrounds are located adjacent to the zoo on the east, with Hillcrest High School to the north, Highway 13 to the west, and I-44 southward.

Currently, Norton Road is being improved and will take part of the southwest portion of the zoo which is the serviced area. The Parks Department is coordinating efforts with Public Works to create a gateway to Springfield from Highway 13 from the north.

Friends of the Zoo, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fund raising and financing for the zoo is currently seeking a method of perpetual funding for the zoo.

Fellows Lake

Character

Fellows Lake is located in a rural setting approximately four miles north of Springfield on the Little Sac River, used to create the Springfield water supply lake. The lake, owned and operated by City Utilities, lies among rolling hills and forests within 2400 acres of land. There is a large open area with turf and picnic facilities near a boat dock. The Missouri Department of



Conservation operates a fishing program with accessible facilities. The facility is enjoyed for large gatherings, boating, fishing, picnicking, walking, biking, etc.

Lake Springfield

Character

Lake Springfield lies within the city limits on the south side of town and within the James River valley. The lake was created to provide cooling for the James River Power Plant, operated by City Utilities. The 1206 acres are surrounded by forest and residential land use and is adjacent to the Springfield Conservation Nature Center owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation, who also provides fishing facilities and programs. Access is gained by Kissick Avenue from the north and Evans Road from the east.



McDaniel Lake

Character

McDaniel Lake, set among hills and forests, lies approximately three miles north of Springfield, downstream from Fellows Lake on the Little Sac River. Like Fellows Lake, it is used for water supply, however, there is no formal recreation facilities on the 825 acres containing the lake.



Ozark Empire Fairgrounds

Character

The fairgrounds are located across the street from the Dickerson Park Zoo. It provides facilities for a regional fair drawing approximately 226,000 people annually each August. The fairgrounds facilities are managed by a fair board and the land is leased from the Park Board. The grandstand is currently undergoing renovation and enlargement and the rest of the facilities are in very good condition. It has been suggested that perhaps the fairgrounds are under-utilized during most of the year and that ways should be developed to continue to enhance the maximum use of the facility, possibly with on-going, continual exhibits.



Ritter Springs Park

Park Character

Ritter Springs is a multi-faceted park that has been expanded by including buffer land for the Northwest Sewage Plant. The first 252 acres of the park were developed during the 1970's and included trails, playground, restrooms, archery, equestrian stables, an old mill pond, forest, and open land. The land is varied, from rolling to steep slopes. There are springs, caves, and a creek on the park. Day camps were once regular programs at the park. In the early 1990's, the land surrounding the



Northwest Sewage Plant, across the Little Sac River, was turned over to the Park Board, adding nearly 400 additional acres to the park. There is an old landfill which is a superfund site, a bomb detonation facility, two historic cemeteries, and an old barn & silo on the land. In 1992, a plan was developed for the site calling for trails, and linkage between the properties via the abandoned bridge over the Little Sac River. Part of the plan was recently implemented with the development of the Sac River Trail for mountain biking. This trail was developed in response to the need to cease mountain biking on original Ritter Springs Park due to erosion of the steep slopes.

Federal and State Parks and Facilities in Greene County

Introduction

These State and Federally owned and operated facilities constitute conservation areas, historical sites, and cemeteries. They offer large, natural areas for public recreation and education. Many of these sites are within a few miles of Springfield, and provide a opportunity to enjoy a more forested or rustic setting than a typical city park can offer.

Federal and State Parks and Facilities in Greene County are:

- Bois D’Arc Conservation Area
- Joe Crighton Access
- Little Sac Woods Recreation Area
- Missouri State Veterans Cemetery - Springfield
- Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site
- Phenix Access
- Rocky Barrens Conservation Area
- Springfield Conservation Nature Center
- Springfield National Cemetery
- Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield

Many of these cemeteries and historical sites have existed for more than 100 years, however, some were not open to the public until recently. Because they are not located within Springfield, these facilities were not included in the 1979 Guidelines.

They are, however, important additions to the overall park and recreation opportunities available to Springfield residents, and are to be included in the proposed 1997 Guidelines and Classification System.

Bois D’Arc Conservation Area

The Bois D’Arc conservation area is off Highway UU, southwest of Willard. It covers 2,892 acres and contains eight ponds with 4.5 acres of fishable water. It is the site of an educational Urban Fishing Program. A natural feature of interest includes Watkins Cave (Speakeasy Cave), which requires a special use permit for access. Another feature is the archery range and staffed firearms range (fee charged).

Joe Crighton Access

The Joe Crighton Access is east of Highway 65 on FR-193. This is an approximately 8-acre area set aside to preserve the natural bridge between FR-193 and the James River.

Little Sac Woods Conservation Area

Little Sac Woods Conservation Area is northwest of Springfield and west of Highway 13. It is 772-acres of forested land on the Little Sac River. Though access to the water is difficult, a three mile hiking trail winds through the area.

The Little Sac Woods Urban Forest is an area of ridges, glades and pastures once inhabited by the Osage Indians. These Native Americans remained in the area until the early 1800s when they were pushed out of Southwest Missouri. What they left behind were odd-shaped trees. These unique trees have trunks that rise skyward a foot or two, then bend horizontally before reaching the sky again. These “thong” trees can be seen throughout the 772-acre woods in north central Greene County. The area, an urban forest owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation, is managed so that a wide variety of outdoor experiences are available to the public. The area includes forest and wildlife management demonstration plots for education and research.

The property is managed to improve tree growth, quality and species composition, wildlife habitats and to maintain watershed quality. Wildlife management includes manipulation of fields within the forest to provide added food sources. Timber harvests are also an important element in the production of forage and cover for creation of suitable wildlife habitat. Any disturbance is only temporary, and normal aesthetic appearance will soon return.

All boundaries are marked from tree to tree with blue paint or signs. State forest signs are also posted where boundaries intersect state and county roads, or private lands.

Little Sac Woods Urban Forest is open for public use. Outdoor recreation is compatible with on-going management of the area. Hiking, orienteering, nature photography, and enjoying the outdoors are some of the recreational opportunities offered by the managed forest during all four seasons. Visitors are allowed to hunt, fish and primitive camp. Shooting is only permitted in designated areas or when pursuing game animals. Motor vehicles are restricted to the parking lots, which are located on Farm Roads 115 and 36.

Missouri State Veterans Cemetery - Springfield

The Missouri State Veterans Cemetery, located at

Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site

Nathan Boone Park is a historical site preserved by the State Department of Natural Resources. The State park is located north of Ash Grove along Highway V. Nathan Boone Park is approximately 250 acres of rolling hills and forested land.

The Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site contains the circa 1837 log home and 400 contiguous acres of property owned by Nathan Boone and his descendants. Nathan Boone was the tenth child and youngest son of Daniel Boone. He and his sixteen year old wife, Olive, followed Nathan's father and older brother, Daniel Morgan Boone, into Missouri in 1799. Nathan made a living by surveying, fur trapping and trading and was elected a delegate to the 1820 constitutional convention leading to Missouri statehood. He served in the military throughout most of his adult life, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in the Missouri Regiment of Dragoons at the age of 72 in 1853.

Adverse financial fortunes in the early 1830s caused him to lose his home near St. Charles and move to Greene County where he and his sons, James, John, Benjamin and Howard acquired land and built houses including the present dog trot style log cabin.

Greene County land and tax records show property ownership for Nathan and his sons in the early 1830s including the land constituting today's state historic site. The property was bought into public ownership with the purchase of the initial 371 acres by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in 1991.

The property will be operated as a state historic site by the Missouri Division of State Parks, Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The present setting exists as agricultural with extant haying and grazing contracts in place. Upon development the site will (as much as possible) be returned to a restored historic Ozark landscape circa 1830.

Present acreage is 401 acres of which 371 constitutes the 'historic' zone and 30 acres constitute maintenance and support functions. Conceptual development planning is presently underway.

Work on visitor contact accommodations (entrance roads, parking lot, contact station and interpretive signing) are scheduled for FY 98. Phased development will continue over the next five years to include the restoration and furnishing of the historic log house, passive recreational features, visitor service facilities, and support and administrative facilities. Development is dependent upon allocations of capital improvement moneys as a result of budget priorities submitted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to the Governor's office and the legislative branch for review and approval.

The site may be open to the public on a limited basis in early FY 99 (after July, 1998). Full development and public access will follow based upon capital

improvement funding. Upon full development, the site will be open on a schedule reflecting operational planning needs. The majority of state historic sites are open seven days a week, 361 days a year from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. A nominal historic site fee is charged. Admission is currently \$2 for adults and \$1 for children with special group rate discounts.

Overall planning of site operations has not been fully formulated; however, “group use” in concert with the historical, interpretive and preservation philosophy of the site will be offered.

Phenix Access

Phenix Access is 2.6 miles north of Ash Grove on Highway V. This conservation area is an approximately 155-acre area on Clear Lake available for fishing (5-acres). It is surrounded by pastures, cropland, and forest (35-acres).

Rocky Barrens Conservation Area

Rocky Barrens Conservation Area is east of Willard on Highway O. The conservation area is a 191-acre area to conserve the distinct rock formations and plains.

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

There are signs for the Nature Center on both US-60 and US-65, near their intersection. It is 80 acres with frontage on Lake Springfield. There are six trails and a nature center building with exhibits, auditorium and classroom space. It is an important learning facility, teaching about nature and its importance in the ecosystem.

Springfield National Cemetery

Springfield National Cemetery was established in 1867 because of the critical need for suitable burial space for the remains of men who fell at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861. Other remains removed from original burial sites at Forsyth, Newtonia, Carthage, Pea Ridge and Springfield were among the early interments. By 1868, a total of 1514 deceased Union Soldiers had received honored burial in the cemetery. Of those, 795 were known while 719 were interred as unknown. The exact number of Confederate dead in the cemetery is unknown. There are 566 grave sites in the Confederate Section and most of the interments are unknown. Of the original 501 buried here, 238 were killed at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Most of the remaining 263 died from wounds or sickness. Some were killed in the Battle of Springfield. The last burial of a Confederate soldier took place on June 12, 1939.

In 1870, on a four-acre tract adjoining, but separated by a stone wall, the only Confederate Cemetery in Missouri was established. In 1911, the two cemeteries were united under the direction of the federal government. In 1984, the old Confederate Cemetery was reopened for burials. On the south side of the monument of General Sterling Price is a plaque that reads, "August 10, 1984." This tablet is dedicated by the Veterans Administration in grateful appreciation of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Missouri Division, for actions taken to remove deed restrictions on 485 unoccupied grave sites. The relinquishment of these graves for use by all veterans serves as a symbol of reunification of purpose for memorializing all who have honorably served this nation without regard for past differences - Confederate and Union alike.

Over the years small additions of land have been made to the cemetery and today its size is approximately 19.1 acres. As of July, 1996 a total of 13,248 burials have occurred. Burials in the cemetery include heroes of all of the nation's wars. The remains of William Freeman, a Revolutionary War Soldier, was transferred here from its first burial site not far distant in 1908.

The property is operated as a federal cemetery by the Veterans Administration. Visitor accommodations (entrance roads, parking lot, contact station and interpretive signing) are present. The site is open to the public seven days a week, from dawn until dusk. Admission is free.

Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield

Wilson’s Creek is a National Park to preserve a battlefield that was crucial during the Civil War. The battle between the Confederate rebels and the Union soldiers was so devastating that even though the confederates had fewer losses, they were unable to forge into Missouri. This kept Missouri within the Union during the early part of the civil war despite the governor’s sympathies to confederacy in its bid for independence. The national park is dedicated to General Lyon and the soldiers that died during the devastating battle. Wilson’s creek runs through the middle of the park where the battle was fought. Wilson’s Creek is both a national monument and a beautiful park for citizens to enjoy.